

Four-party talks planned in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — A high-level South Yemeni delegation, including Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali, arrived in Damascus Tuesday for talks with Syrian officials that were expected to be joined by teams from Algeria and Libya. The Libyan news agency IANA said Monday the four countries, which with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) form the "Arab Steadfastness Front," would hold talks on a so-called "strategic Arab union." Arab diplomatic sources said Algerian and Libyan delegations were expected to arrive within the next 24 hours. Anis Hassan Yehya, a member of South Yemen's ruling Socialist Party politburo, told reporters on arrival Tuesday: "We will work on promoting a joint struggle... to confront all accords and plots hostile to the Arab Nation."

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U.N. appeals to kidnappers

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar appealed "on humanitarian grounds" Tuesday for the release of British and American nationals, including Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, who have been kidnapped in Beirut. U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani, in a statement issued on behalf of the U.N. chief, said: "In the case of Mr. Anderson, the secretary-general reiterates his belief that journalists who are not party to the conflict on which they report should not be held responsible for the events which it is their duty to observe. As he has stated in the past, the secretary-general feels strongly that the safety of journalists, who accomplish their missions under often difficult and trying circumstances, must be ensured by all concerned."

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Austrian security chief arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of Public Security Department of Austria Robert Danzinger arrived in Amman Tuesday on an official visit expected to last six days. During the visit he will hold talks with Interior Minister Suleiman Arar and Public Security Department Director Lieutenant-General Diab Yusuf on cooperation between Austria and Jordan in security affairs. The Public Security Department has prepared a programme for the Austrian official to tour security posts and acquaint himself with their activities. The Austrian official, who is accompanied by his wife, will also tour Jordanian archaeological sites.

Bomb dismantled in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (R) — Police dismantled a small bomb in the centre of Tel Aviv Tuesday and discovered a second fake charge nearby, a police spokesman said. Authorities detained 130 Arabs for questioning about the devices, he said.

Tel Aviv embassies put on alert

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States embassy and other foreign missions in Israel have been put on alert after a number plate was stolen from an American diplomat's car. Western diplomats said Tuesday. They told Reuters that Israeli security apparently feared the plate could be used in a guerrilla attack or to smuggle a car bomb into an embassy compound. A police spokesman said the plate, number 15-39122, was stolen on March 10 in Tel Aviv. Plates starting with the figures 15 are allocated exclusively to vehicles used by U.S. embassy staff in Tel Aviv and their families.

Fire destroys U.S. plane in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — A four-engine U.S. air force jet designed for inflight refuelling caught fire and burned Tuesday while taking on fuel at Cairo International airport, the U.S. embassy said. Embassy spokesman Edward Bernier said there were no injuries to the plane's American crew, who were not aboard the KC135 when the fire broke out. An airport source said two Egyptian firemen suffered superficial wounds. Mr. Bernier said an investigation was under way into the cause of the fire.

Tamil rebels say helicopter downed

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian-based Tamil separatist rebels claimed they shot down a Sri Lankan air force helicopter with machine guns at sea off the island republic's northern coast, the United News of India reported Tuesday. The firing took place Monday as members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a guerrilla organisation based in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, were on a maritime training exercise at the Nagercoil coast off Point Pedro, Sri Lanka's northern tip, the news agency said.

Iraqis launch air raids after ousting Iranians from south

11 reportedly killed in Baghdad blast

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraq Tuesday appeared to have defeated a major Iranian offensive on the southern Gulf war front and reported its war planes scored "crushing hits" in bombing raids on several Iranian cities following a big explosion in Baghdad.

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraq Tuesday appeared to have defeated a major Iranian offensive on the southern Gulf war front and reported its war planes scored "crushing hits" in bombing raids on several Iranian cities following a big explosion in Baghdad.

Iran said it had hit Baghdad with a fourth missile in six days while in Tehran, Iraqis and foreigners scrambled for plane seats out of the country hours before a 1700 GMT Iraqi deadline declaring Iranian air space a war zone. A big pre-dawn explosion hit central Baghdad Tuesday and residents said the blast was near the scene of an earlier explosion last Thursday that ripped through a major bank building in the city centre.

In Tehran, Iran said it had fired a long-range missile at the city Tuesday but there was no clear indication whether the explosion was linked to the claimed missile attack.

Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said at least 11 people were killed in the explosion. Iraqi officials have dismissed Iranian claims it hit Baghdad with

missiles, saying the first two blasts were caused by explosives planted by Iranian agents.

Iraqi jet fighters raided "selected targets" in five Iranian cities Tuesday to "force the rulers of Iran to accept peace and end the war," a military spokesman said on Iraqi Television.

The spokesman identified the target cities as Bushehr, Hamadan, Erbil, Krand and Korramabad.

The spokesman said the air attacks were carried out at 1000 hours (0700 GMT).

"All Iraqi jet fighters returned safely after accurately pounding their targets," the spokesman added.

Baghdad lies some 130 kilometres from the Iranian border. Iran is not known to have missiles with the range to hit it and Iraq has said previous blasts were the work of saboteurs. But diplomats speculate Tehran may have bought missiles from Libya or North Korea.

Tehran Radio said Iraqi warplanes Tuesday raided the cities of Hamadan, Khorramabad and Bushehr, wounding eight people.

Iraq announced on Sunday it would regard Iranian air space as a prohibited war zone from 1700 GMT Tuesday and advised foreign airlines not to enter the area to avoid being attacked by Iraqi warplanes by mistake.

As the deadline for Iraqi air interdiction over Iran approached, a Lufthansa Boeing 747 left Tehran airport with 350 foreign nationals and six infants aboard (See page 2).

Meanwhile, Reuters correspondent Subby Haddad reported from Al Uzeyr on the war front that hundreds of Iranian corpses littered the Huwazeh marshlands of southern Iraq after seven days of some of the bitterest fighting of the war (See page 2).

Baghdad-based correspondents, on their first trip to the area since the Iraq launched its offensive on March 11, were driven Monday 40 kilometres north and south through swamps cleared of Iranian troops and some 20 kilometres eastward almost to the Iranian border.

Iran indicated Monday it had halted its drive across the oil-rich marshes to the main highway linking Baghdad and Iraq's second city of Basra in the south. Tehran claimed 500 square kilometres of an important oil region had been taken, but did not say where.

Diplomats said Iran appeared to have received a setback in its drive for the main road linking Baghdad and Basra, but did not rule out the possibility of fresh Iranian attacks in the area.

Mousavi threatens to rocket Baghdad airport

LONDON (R) — Iran's Prime Minister Mr. Hossein Mousavi warned on Tehran Radio Tuesday night that Baghdad airport could come under missile attacks as a result of an Iraqi threat to turn Iranian air space into a war zone.

A declaration by the Baghdad government that it regarded Iranian air space as part of the Gulf war zone came into effect at 1700 GMT Tuesday, together with a warning to foreign airlines to stay clear (See page 2).

In an interview on Tehran Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Mr. Mousavi said that a country with "58 foreign flights each week, which has a dependent economy... should count on the fact that Baghdad airport may come under repeated blows by our powerful missiles."

Mr. Mousavi was being interviewed on what the radio said was "the recent threat of Iraq regarding the security of the flights of civilian airlines."

Almost all international airlines have also cancelled flights to Tehran.

Sheikh Sabah visits Iraq on GCC peace mission

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah was flying to Baghdad Tuesday as a representative of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to discuss ways of ending the Iran-Iraq war, as Gulf Arab states reaffirmed their support for Iraq in the 3½-month-old conflict.

The Gulf News Agency quoted Sheikh Sabah as saying he was ready to go to Tehran if Iran showed readiness to end the war. He was speaking at the end of a two-day meeting of GCC foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, which ended in the capital of the confederated states in the past two weeks.

"The council reaffirms its support for Iraq and its determination to maintain its sovereignty," a statement issued after the meeting said.

"It also calls on Iran to respond to international efforts to end the conflict and respect its border with Iraq," the statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, said.

The council also expressed regret at attacks on civilian centres over the past two weeks and voiced concern over what it called the dangerous implications of the recent fighting and its impact on the region's security.

The ministers Monday contacted Iraq and Algeria in what appeared to be the start of fresh diplomatic bids to end the fighting.

Algeria, Kuwait and the UAE have been involved in efforts to end the war. But like initiatives by United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement, all have so far failed.

Iraq had repeatedly expressed willingness to discuss peace but Tehran says it will go on fighting until the Iraqi government is overthrown.

Diplomatic sources at the GCC headquarters in Riyadh told the Associated Press that hope had heightened that Iran might cooperate with peace missions because of a message by the Iranian leadership to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan to get Iraq to stop the attacks on civilian targets.

Meanwhile, the joint statement also said the ministers discussed "the dangers threatening the peace and security of the region as a result of the escalation in the war, and the consequent threat to world peace and security." It did not elaborate.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone asked the Iranian government Tuesday to make "maximum efforts" to assure the safe evacuation of Japanese residents in Iraq.



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (centre) welcomes His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who arrived in Baghdad Monday together for a brief visit and held intense talks with President Hussein on the situation of the Iran-Iraq war front (AP wirephoto)

U.S. 'looking into possibility' of talks with joint delegation

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan's administration, signalling its willingness to step up the search for a Middle East peace, said Monday it is "looking into the possibility" of talking to a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation if it would lead to direct peace talks with Israel.

"We are exploring how such delegation can be put together, what the substantive basis of such a delegation should be," Edward Djerejian, deputy State Department spokesman, told reporters.

Djerejian said the delegation could not include members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), as suggested by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Other officials, who insisted on not being identified, said however, that it might include Palestinians approved by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"We are looking into the possibility of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to be involved in the peace process, in moving the peace process forward, which in our view at the end of the day means direct negotiations, direct talks, between the Arabs and the Israelis," Djerejian said.

While the Reagan administration appears to be holding firm to its refusal to meet with a delegation that includes PLO members, it is being pushed by the pace of events into a more active

role than officials were forecasting before Mr. Mubarak's visit last week.

Mr. Mubarak accused the administration of adopting a "defeatist approach" towards the Middle East.

Apparently reacting to Mr. Mubarak, Secretary of State George P. Shultz has announced that Richard W. Murphy, the assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, will visit Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other countries to explore peace possibilities.

Djerejian went further than officials had previously in indicating a U.S. willingness to meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, even pointing to a possible American role in assembling such a group.

Djerejian noted that "the secretary said the president is dispatching Ambassador Murphy to the area and we will explore various possibilities in the peace process."

Among the issues Mr. Murphy will explore, the deputy spokesman said, is whether it is possible to construct a Palestinian delegation which would participate along with Jordan in direct negotiations with Israel.

"He (Shultz) also said there is no PLO delegation, and our position on that remains unchanged," Djerejian said. "The PLO must first accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and

338 and Israel's right to exist."

Regarding various proposals and ideas about meetings between the United States and different types of delegations, Djerejian said, "we are looking at all these proposals from the perspective of how any such meeting might advance us toward the goal of direct negotiations."

"We are convinced that a just and lasting peace can only be achieved through direct negotiations between the parties themselves," the deputy spokesman said. "As the secretary noted on Friday and over the weekend, we have seen some movement by the parties. We have found this movement to be encouraging and we think it is important to maintain this momentum and to build upon it. And it is within this context that Assistant Secretary Murphy's trip should be placed. He is going to assess the recent developments in the area and to look at ways the process can be moved forward."

Djerejian told one reporter that while Murphy will be looking into "the possibilities of the construction of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the assumption is that it would have to be non-PLO."

The deputy spokesman said the U.S. position on what it considers to be the best approach to the peace process in the Middle East is clear and is embodied in President

(Continued on page 5)

Army, Amal battle Falangists near Sidon; residents threatened

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — More than 20,000 residents fled Sidon suburbs Tuesday as Lebanese troops and militiamen fought gunmen of the right-wing Falangist Party in the east of the city.

An army communiqué said two soldiers had been killed and nine wounded and an armoured vehicle knocked out since clashes began Monday. Police said four civilians died and 38 were wounded.

The battles raged as the "national unity" cabinet in Beirut cancelled a planned meeting to discuss a week-long revolt by the mostly Christian right-wing Falangist "Lebanese Forces" militia in the capital and predominantly Christian heartlands further north.

Government sources said President Amin Gemayel, himself a Maronite Christian, was due to fly shortly to Damascus to discuss the revolt with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who has massed troops in North Lebanon in a move apparently aimed at forcing the rebels to abandon the revolt.

Shooting and shelling raged on the eastern edges of Sidon, after security sources said the "Lebanese Forces" brought reinforcements into the predominantly Muslim suburban districts and gave inhabitants an ultimatum to leave.

The clash was the first in the area since "Lebanese Forces" guerrillas near Sidon pledged allegiance to the week-old breakaway rebellion in President Gemayel's Falange Party militia.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami has warned that the mutiny led by Samir Geagea could force the president to step down and rekindle the Lebanese civil war.

Reporters saw several families fleeing the mainly Christian towns of Abra, Haliye and Qayaa shortly before midday. Many others came to Sidon on foot and others were seen going into the fields around the three suburbs.

The state radio said the rebel militiamen had given between 25,000 to 30,000 Muslims living in the three towns a one-hour ultimatum at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) to pack and leave.

Sidon's parliament member Nazih Bizri charged in a statement that the militiamen broke into and looted houses in the three areas overnight. The state radio said many of the raiders were masked or hooded.

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said inhabitants were beaten as houses were taken over by the gunmen, and about 90 per cent of the 30,000 inhabitants of the eastern districts fled into the city centre to take refuge in schools, public buildings and unfinished structures.

Correspondents heard fierce battles with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machineguns interspersed with tense periods of sniper fire.

The army communiqué said several of its positions on the eastern edge of town had come under fire since Monday from Abra and

Haliyeh "compelling the army to return fire using the appropriate weapons."

Reuters photographer Jack Dabbaghian said only militiamen, including men of the Shi'ite Amal militia, appeared to be returning fire at the rebels, who were shooting at army posts from suburban rooftops.

Most of the city was shut down amid the sounds of battle, and streets in the northeastern Shi'ite suburb of Haret Sidon teemed with scores of heavily-armed Amal militiamen.

The fighting shattered peace in the Sidon area that had been carefully nurtured by confessional leaders since Israeli troops pulled out a month ago. The Israelis forecast that their departure would be followed by sectarian bloodshed.

Lebanese leaders, including Mr. Karami and Amal leader Nabih Berri, have accused Israel of inciting the rebellion in the Falange Party, some of the leaders of which maintain close ties with the Jewish state.

In Beirut, a source in the "Lebanese Forces" told Reuters the Sidon clashes were a local matter and had nothing to do with the militia's uprising in east Beirut against Mr. Gemayel's pro-Syrian stance.

But he admitted Falangist fighters in the area took orders from militia headquarters in east Beirut.

(Continued on page 5)

Hussein, Mubarak end visit to Iraq

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak flew to Cairo early Tuesday after four hours of intense talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the situation in the Iran-Iraq war front and relations between the three countries.

King Hussein and President Mubarak flew to Baghdad from Amman Monday after about three hours of talks on the Egyptian leader's visit to the U.S. and Europe last week.

It was the first visit by an Egyptian president to Iraq since Baghdad, along with 16 other Arab countries, broke off ties with Cairo following the 1979 Egypt-Israel separate peace treaty. Jordan resumed diplomatic relations with Egypt last year.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said President Hussein briefed the King and President Mubarak on developments on the war front and "the victories accomplished by the Iraqi army."

Iraq said Monday it had defeated an Iranian offensive in the marshlands in southeast Iraq after the "greatest battle in the history" of the 53-month old Gulf war.

Mr. Mubarak and King Hussein expressed their countries' solidarity with Iraq, INA said.

The three leaders stressed the necessity of joint Arab action to confront challenges facing the Arab Nation, INA said without elaboration.

Shortly after the meeting King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak departed Baghdad.

Mr. Mubarak told reporters at Cairo airport that "Iraq does not need more military assistance because it is in a better military position," according to the Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA).

"They (the Iraqis) are in a much better position," Mr. Mubarak said.

He appealed to Iranian leaders to seek peace with Iraq because "I'm sorry to say that is much bloodshed on the Iranian side."

Mr. Mubarak told reporters that he went to Iraq despite the absence of formal diplomatic relations between Egypt and the embattled country "within the framework of friendship between Egyptian and Iraqi people and because Iraq needed affirmation of our friendship."

"There had been two outstanding invitations from President Saddam Hussein and I found it proper to go and visit him in his country," Mr. Mubarak added.

In reply to a question on whether Iraq will resume diplomatic relations with Egypt, he said he did not pay much attention to formalities.

"Diplomatic relations in the Arab World don't make any sense, between you and me. I never ask for an ambassador," he said.

Renewing his plea to Iran to stop the Gulf war, he said "we are not encouraging any war. We are asking for an end to this war. The people are suffering. The leaders of Iran should find a way to sit at the table and negotiate."

Mr. Mubarak said that in Amman he and King Hussein agreed on keeping the momentum of the Arab-Israel peace process.

Egyptian sources quoted by Reuters said support for Iraq in its war with Iran and ways to end that conflict were among topics at a working lunch in the Iraqi capital.

MENA said from Baghdad that, saying goodbye to the Egyptian and Jordanian leaders late Monday night, President Hussein reiterated that his army had smashed Iran's latest battlefield thrust in the marshes of southern Iraq.

"The situation on the battlefield is excellent. Ten divisions were sent in to our territory. You should ask in Iran how many came back," the Iraqi leader told a news conference.

MENA from Baghdad quoted King Hussein as saying "I thank God I am a part of this meeting with dear brothers... I am very proud of the steadfastness of Iraq."

INSIDE

- * Mujahideen say Iran suffering 'heavy defeat', page 2
- * Senate passes law on universities, page 3
- * MX, 'Star Wars' 'Nuclearophobia' haunt Reagan, page 4
- * Chomsky's book on Lebanon draws fire from 'U.S. elite', page 5
- * Juventus, Liverpool head for perfect final, page 6
- * Riyadh to improve services, page 7
- * Canada, U.S. may develop joint defence, page 8

Iranian dead litter marshland battlefield after Iraqi victory

AL UZAYR, Southern Iraq (R) — Hundreds of Iranian dead litter the marshlands around this southern Iraqi town after seven days of heavy fighting in which Iraqi troops crushed an Iranian advance to the River Tigris.

Baghdad-based correspondents toured the battlefield Monday for the first time since Iraq launched its offensive on March 11 and were driven some 20 kilometres eastwards, almost to the Iranian border.

The correspondents were taken 40 kilometres north and south through marshes cleared of Iranian troops.

Iraqi missile batteries and artillery around Al Uzayr, on the Baghdad to Basra Highway between Al Amarah and Al Qurnah, meanwhile shelled Iranian lines now said to be some 40 kilometres away.

Iraqi commanders said eight divisions of Iranian regular army troops and Revolutionary Guards

had been poured into the Hawizah Marshes, in an apparent drive to reach the Tigris and cut the main road to Basra, Iraq's second city with a population of one million.

Advance units at one stage managed to reach and cross the Tigris, throwing pontoon bridges across the river and taking up positions on its west bank, threatening the highway.

But the bridges were destroyed by Iraqi helicopter gunships and the Iranian troops encircled and destroyed, Maj.-Gen. Sultan Hashem, commander of East Tigris Forces, told the correspondents at his battlefield headquarters.

The correspondents saw hundreds of Iranian dead in foxholes and trenches on both sides of the

river, many with rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers still at their sides.

They had managed to knock out dozens of Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers, still strewn around the battle-ground, before succumbing to a counter-attack by crack Iraqi special forces and Presidential Guards reinforcements.

More than 50 Iraqi tanks were still rumbling over marshland roads, many firing east towards Iranian lines.

An Iraqi High Command communiqué Monday described the fighting as the fiercest of the 4½ year war.

Defence Minister Adnan Kheirullah, who commanded the Iraqi troops at the front, said they had "fought for several days and nights without a break, inch by inch, trench by trench, from one position to another."

Gen. Hashem said the Iranians had lost tens of thousands of dead.

Asked about Iraqi casualties, he said: "One Iraqi to every 100 Iranian losses would be far too high."

As the correspondents toured the marshes, strewn with unexploded RPGs, hand grenades and machine-gun ammunition, the air was thick with the smell of decaying corpses. One of the dozens of fishing villages in the area was empty but for a few cattle left by residents fleeing the Iranian advance.

Gen. Hashem said there had been no fresh fighting in the Majnoon Islands, an oil-rich area to the south of Hawizah, much of which Iran occupied in its last big offensive a year ago. But he said the Iranians had made no gains in the latest operation.

"The Iranians were preparing for this offensive for over a year," Gen. Hashem said. "Not a single Iranian soldier now exists in the marshlands they invaded last week."



HIGH TENSION: Israeli infantry and armour carrier pass during patrol near Qasbiyah, South Lebanon, where every turn could bring in resistance attack (AP wirephoto)

Geagea arouses conflicting sentiments

By William MacLean
Reuter

BEIRUT — Samir Geagea, the youthful leader of Falangist militiamen in revolt against Lebanon's President Amine Gemayel, is a controversial figure who inspires devotion among his supporters and the hatred of the opposition.

Falangists who fear Mr. Gemayel is leading them into opposition domination see the 32-year-old militia chief as a charismatic personality trying to brush aside ageing Falangist leaders ready to compromise their future with Syria and the opposition.

Geagea is a tall figure in battle fatigues, constantly surrounded by heavily-armed bodyguards. Despite a military moustache, his smooth skin, boyish features and polite manner seem more in keeping with his past as a medical student than with his involvement in some of the bloodiest episodes of Lebanon's civil war.

But his armed challenge to the established bosses of the Falangist Party has won widespread support. He is seen more as a war lord than a politician, and even some admirers admit he is an "inflammatory" figure.

But they say he is always admirably polite, and commands loyalty as a diehard Maronite "patriot" dedicated to the survival of his community in a hostile opposition region.

To Druse leader Walid Junblatt, one of the bitterest opponents of Mr. Gemayel, himself a Maronite Christian, Geagea is mounting an "evil" Maronite plot to carve a Falangist canton out of his war-shattered country.

Lebanon's Falangists have lacked a strong war leader since the 1982 assassination of the charismatic Bashir Gemayel, the brother of Amin who formed the "Lebanese Forces" out of disparate militias.

Geagea was one of Bashir's leading lieutenants, and the Lebanese Forces rallied to him last



Samir Geagea

week after he was expelled from the Falangist Party for refusing to abandon a strategic roadblock under a Syrian-backed peace plan.

While Syrian and Lebanese opposition leaders say he is in the pay of Israel, his supporters say the seeds of revolt were sown by Mr. Gemayel's agreement last year to work towards Syrian-backed reforms giving the opposition more power.

"These boys sacrificed their youth to fight for Lebanon, but all they've got in return is to be forgotten, swept under the carpet by Amin," said a teacher who taught Geagea at high school. "I knew he would never stand for that."

"Look at the age of the Falange leadership. They're all old men," said an academic whose university classes Geagea attended. "Like it or not, this is the revolt of young men."

Geagea, from the Behar area of north Lebanon, first rose to prominence at the age of 26 when he was a medical student at the American University of Beirut.

In 1978 he led his men in a bloody surprise attack on the northern town of Ehden, a stronghold of Maronite ex-President Sulaiman Franjeh, in which 30 people, including Mr. Franjeh's son Tony, the latter's wife and daughter were killed.

The attack, in which Mr. Geagea

was wounded, brought heavy clashes between the Falangists and Mr. Franjeh's men. Falangist sources said Geagea today enjoys strong support among Falangists displaced from their northern homes in the violence.

"For these people, Geagea is not a controversial figure. He is a hero. For the displaced people, he is their only hope," said a party source.

He said Geagea's revolt, dubbed the "Christian spring", has now boosted his support among Maronites in the Beirut area.

Geagea commanded Falangist forces in the Shouf mountain war in 1983, when they were driven out by the Druze amid mutual massacres. He was given an Israeli military escort out as more than 150,000 Christians fled their mountain homes.

Since his supporters took over parts of east Beirut and north Lebanon last week, Geagea has denied Israeli involvement and said Maronite "sovereignty" is non-negotiable, although dialogue with Syria is possible.

"Like most Maronites, Geagea fears Syria aims to reclaim 'Greater Syria' and doesn't believe Syrian statements that Lebanon is a sovereign state," a Falangist source said.

"Geagea is an inflammatory character. But what he has done is healthy for the Maronites," the academic said. "He has brought grievances out into the open."

Geagea commands the Falangist militia's anti-tank and mechanised units and his aides say most of the estimated 4,000 regular militiamen are loyal to him.

He has said that since his childhood he had been attached to an image of an all-knowing commander "truthful to the most extreme limits, courageous to the most extreme limits."

"Despite what they say about his violence, he was always the perfect gentleman," said the high school teacher. "When I came to class, he and his boys would stand up immediately. If I told them to shut up, there was silence."

UNIFIL clashes with pro-Israeli militiamen

TEL AVIV (AP) — A four-hour shootout erupted between Irish peacekeeping soldiers and pro-Israeli militiamen in South Lebanon, but no casualties resulted, a U.N. spokesman said.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said the gunbattle began about 5 p.m. (1500 GMT) Monday near the Lebanese village of Braachia after a militiaman refused to have his car inspected at a U.N. checkpoint.

The man went to a nearby barricade manned by about 30 pro-Israeli militiamen who opened fire on the Irish position with rifles, light machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades, he said.

The Irish brought in reinforcements and returned fire and the battle continued sporadically until 9 p.m. (1700 GMT), the U.N. spokesman said in a telephone interview from U.N. headquarters at Naqoura in South Lebanon.

"We protested the incident to the Israeli army and asked them to send a liaison officer," said Goksel, adding that the firing stopped after an Israeli officer talked with the militiamen.

Goksel said a meeting was scheduled later Tuesday with Israeli officers to discuss the incident.

Relations between pro-Israeli militiamen and the 650-man Irish contingent of the 10-nation peacekeeping force have been tense since a confrontation on March 13 in the village of Yater, 8 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

Jesuit priest believed kidnapped in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The car of a Dutch Jesuit priest believed kidnapped last week has been found in a remote part of the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in East Lebanon, with a note saying "vengeance party" in it, a Jesuit spokesman said Tuesday.

Father Nicolas Kluiters, 43, who disappeared last Thursday, was the fifth foreigner and the second Roman Catholic priest kidnapped in Lebanon this year.

Five Americans, two Britons and a Saudi are also missing and all the abductions apart from Fr. Kluiters have been claimed by the "Islamic Jihad" organisation.

The spokesman said Fr. Kluiters was last seen on Thursday when he left Hefel in the northern Bekaa, where he had conducted mass at a convent, for Barka 33 kilometres to the south.

Syrian troops manning checkpoints in the Bekaa had reported seeing him, and some said he was with a bearded man, the spokesman said, adding: "Perhaps this was the kidnapper."

Mujahedeen: Iran suffered 'heavy defeat'

PARIS (AP) — Iran's opposition Mujahedeen Movement claimed Tuesday that the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini suffered "a heavy defeat" in its latest military offensive in southern Iraq, losing at least 25,000 killed or wounded.

Citing Mujahedeen members with in the Iranian army, the Paris-based organisation said the offensive involved "almost all of the Khomeini forces at the southern sector of the front — a total

of five divisions and nine brigades."

A brigade commander was killed and "a large number of top Pasdaran commanders" also died, the Mujahedeen said in a statement.

"After the Iranian retreat, bodies of thousands of the dead were left on the marshy terrain of Hoor al Owzeih in Iraq," the statement said. "Every day, at least 20 C-130 transport aircraft and dozens of cars and trains carry the

wounded to other towns and cities across Iran. But as the number of the wounded is very high, many die because of lack of treatment."

Massoud Rajavi, leader of the Mujahedeen and head of the National Council of the Resistance, issued an appeal calling on the Iranian people to "boycott the war fronts and thus prevent the massacre of tens of thousands of their fellow countrymen," the statement said.

German plane evacuates foreigners from Iran

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — The West German airline Lufthansa flew more than 350 foreign nationals out of Tehran Tuesday, hours before an Iraqi deadline declaring Iranian airspace a war zone was due to take effect.

A Lufthansa spokesman said the special flight, using a Boeing 747, took off from Tehran Airport at 1042 GMT with 351 adults and six infants on board and was bound for Frankfurt.

"We have basically evacuated all German and European nationals who were waiting to depart as well as a few Japanese," the spokesman told Reuters.

Iraq warned two days ago that Iranian airspace would become a prohibited war zone from 1700 GMT Tuesday and that commercial airliners could come under attack.

Lufthansa announced Monday it was suspending scheduled flights to Tehran until at least March 30 in response to the Iraqi declaration. Other international airlines have taken the similar steps and have also cancelled flights to Baghdad.

The spokesman said the plane was sent to Tehran shortly before dawn at the request of the West German Transport Ministry. It

was due to land at Frankfurt airport at 1545 GMT.

The spokesman confirmed that Lufthansa would continue flights to Baghdad, with the next leaving Frankfurt 10 minutes after the flight from Tehran touched down.

The Foreign Ministry in Bonn said there were about 2,000 West German nationals in Iran, and a similar number in Iraq, though several had left Iran in recent days after the latest upsurge of air raids in the Gulf war.

"We are in contact with German nationals. They must decide for themselves whether or not to leave," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

In Stockholm, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said 24 Swedish nationals had left Tehran Tuesday on three flights heading for Europe — the one arranged by Lufthansa, and others by Austrian Airlines and the Iranian national carrier, Iran Air.

There were still some 70 Swedes in Tehran and another 86 scattered around the country. Deputy Foreign Minister Pierre Schori said Monday Sweden had plans to evacuate Swedes overland if necessary.

The Swedish community in Iran consists mainly of technicians working for the Swedish arm-

aments and chemical group Bofors and for Skanska, a large construction company.

The Egyptian national carrier, Egyptair, Monday resumed flights to Baghdad after a one-day suspension because of the escalating Gulf war, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Tuesday suspended flights to Tehran and Baghdad because of "escalating war conditions" in Iranian and Iraqi airspace, the official APP news agency reported.

It quoted a PIA spokesman as saying the decision was taken in the interests of the safety of passengers and aircraft.

"The PIA will continuously watch the situation and, in line with other carriers operating in that region, will take a decision to resume flights to Tehran and Baghdad as soon as conditions permit," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile Turkish Transportation Minister Veyisel Atay was quoted Tuesday as saying that extra flights to Tehran would be provided if necessary to bring home Turks residing in Iran.

"If need be we can provide additional flights in order to bring home all the Turks that wish to come," the newspaper Milliyet quoted him as saying.

Tehran protests over KUNA commentary

KUWAIT (R) — Iran protested to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Tuesday over a commentary which said Tehran was believed to be seeking a chance to attack Gulf Arab states.

KUNA said Iran's charge d'affaires in Kuwait, Mohammad Redha Bagheri, called the remarks "biased and provocative" in a formal complaint to its chairman and director-general, Barges Al Barges.

Mr. Bagheri objected to a passage in the March 15 commentary which said: "Iran is believed to be waiting for the opportune time to deal military blows to the non-combatant Gulf countries to destroy their oil fields."

Gandhi, Iranian envoy discuss Gulf war

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi held talks Tuesday with an Iranian envoy on the latest escalation of hostilities in the war with Iraq, an Iranian embassy spokesman said.

The spokesman said Ali Mohammad Beshari, a deputy in the Foreign Ministry, arrived Monday.

Mr. Gandhi last week sent messages to Iran and Iraq expressing concern over latest developments and appealing for an end to the bombing of civilian targets.

He sent envoys this week to Tehran and Baghdad to discuss concrete ways of ending the war, now in its fifth year.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	2357	News Headlines
MAIN CHANNEL	2400	Close Down
17:00	Koran	
17:10	Cartoons	
17:25	Children's Programmes	
18:05	Non-Fit	
18:30	Sport	
19:30	Programme Review	
19:40	News Programmes	
19:55	Poetry	
20:00	News in Arabic	
20:35	Arabic Series	
21:35	Programme Review	
21:45	Arabic Series	
22:00	News in Arabic	
FOREIGN CHANNEL		
18:30	French Programme: Des chiffres et des lettres	
19:00	Cartoon	
19:10	News in French	
19:15	Microphone	
19:30	News in Hebrew	
19:40	News in Arabic	
20:30	Up the Elephant and Round the Castle (Eps. 4)	
21:10	Earth Physical Resources	
22:30	News in English	
22:40	The Hotel	
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM		partly on 9560 KHz. SW
07:00	Light Music	
07:30	Newsdesk	
08:00	Morning Show	
10:00	News Summary	
10:05	Morning Show Contd.	
11:00	Pop Session	
12:00	News Summary	
12:05	Pop Session Contd.	
13:00	News Summary	
13:05	Pop Session	
14:00	News Bulletin	
14:10	Instrumentals	
14:15	The Young Sound	
15:00	Concert Hour	
16:00	News Summary	
16:05	Instrumentals	
16:30	Old Favourites	
17:00	Jordan Weekly	
17:30	Pop Session	
18:00	News Summary	
18:05	Over a Cup of Tea	
18:30	Arab Music	
19:00	News Desk	
19:30	Date with a Star	
20:00	Evening Show	
21:00	News Summary	
21:05	Evening Show Contd.	
21:30	News Summary	
22:00	Evening Show Continued	
23:00	Evening Show Continued	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of plastic art by the Jordanian artist Mrs. Janet Junblatt at the Royal Cultural Centre.

An art exhibition by Arianan Ramadan at the University of Jordan library.

An exhibition of historical photos from the East and West banks of Jordan at the University of Jordan library.

An exhibition of computers and electronics at Yarmouk University.

Agricultural exhibition at the University of Jordan.

An exhibition of china ink drawing by Mohammad Jalous at Petra Park auditorium.

Paintings exhibition by Adnan Helo at Alia Art Gallery.

PLAY

"The Fool" (for children) at 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

Excavation at Khirbet edh Dharieh near Amman 1984 at French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre : Tel: 6610267/
American Centre : 44371
American Centre Library : 41520
British Council : 36147-8
French Cultural Centre : 37009
Goethe Institute : 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre : 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre : 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre : 39777
Haya Arts Centre : 665195
Husseini Youth City : 667181
Y.W.C.A. : 41793
Y.W.M.A. : 664251
Amman Municipal Library : 36111
University of Jordan Library : 843555

from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum). Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: sun-4 p.m. Closed Sundays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

El-Moss Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Ammon Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club of Jordan. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic). Jabal Luweidieh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Hinnin, 661577.
Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox). Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer). Jabal Amman, 25583.
Anglican Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 775261.
St. Epiphanius Church (Syrian Orthodox). Amman 1172.
Armenian International Church (Interdenominational). meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

04:18 : : : : : Fa
05:41 : : : : : (Sunrise) Du
11:45 : : : : : Dhul
18:11 : : : : : Ma
17:47 : : : : : Ma
19:30 : : : : : Ish

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum. Jewelry and costumes used for 100 years old. Also cosmetics

NEWS IN BRIEF

JNGC to approve all imported maps

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat Tuesday announced that no maps or atlases are allowed to be imported unless the Jordan National Geographic Centre in Amman (JNGC) approves them. Mr. Obaidat added that it has been noticed that a lot of the imported atlases and maps contained a lot of political faults. He said that this decision should be adopted since atlases and maps may be misleading especially if they do not carry accurate scientific, political and planning qualities.

Anani leaves for investment seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani left Tuesday for Geneva at the head of a delegation to take part in a seminar of European investors due to open on March 21. During the two-day seminar the participants will discuss ways to promote foreign capital investments in Third World nations. Dr. Anani is accompanied by representatives from his ministry and the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade.

U.N. official, Zawaideh discuss training

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements Sohiro Kuwiyama, now on a visit to Jordan, Tuesday met with Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaideh. They discussed cooperation between the U.N. organisation and the Housing Corporation, especially regarding holding training courses in Jordan within the framework of a U.N. regional programme.

Supply Ministry not responsible for onions

AMMAN (Petra) — Informed sources at the Ministry of Supply have said that the ministry is only responsible for importing apples. This reply was made in response to inquiries and complaints about the poor quality of dry onions available in the Jordanian market. The Ministry of Supply says that it is not responsible for importing any vegetable or fruit produce and that its responsibility lies only in importing apples, in accordance with a cabinet decision, the source added.

Court sentences hashish trafficker

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Hisham Sa'id Al Baba to eight years in prison with hard labour and the payment of JD 3,000 for trafficking hashish. The court also passed a similar sentence on Ahmad Al Kameh on a similar charge. The military governor Tuesday endorsed the sentences.

Police catch boiler thief

AMMAN (Petra) — The police in Shmeisani district Tuesday announced the capture of a 45-year old thief who had stolen four central heating boilers and sold them to a store in Marka.

A spokesman for the Public Security Department said that the Shmeisani police station received a complaint on Feb. 5 from a citizen in Tla' Al Ali, west of here, about boilers missing from his building and initial investigations, including finger prints, proved futile. Afterwards, several suspects and thieves with previous records similar to the case in question were called in for questioning also without revealing any clues, the spokesman said.

He said that later the police were informed about a store in Marka which displayed second-

hand diesel boilers for sale and the police immediately moved in to inspect the motors. Investigations in Marka showed that the boilers were being offered for a much lower price than brand new boilers, and when questioned by the police the merchant admitted to buying them for JD 600 and told the police about the thief's identity, the spokesman said.

He said that the robber, identified only as H.B., was apprehended and admitted stealing the four boilers. The man proved to be a thief with a police record and he had served a prison term in 1978. The thief said that he had been in the business since 1966. The boilers have since been retrieved and the thief referred to trial.

Jazz treat in store for Amman's music lovers

By Jean Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jaber and in cooperation with the Friends of the Liver Patients Society, the American Centre will present a musical concert by an outstanding jazz group, "The Jay Hoggard Quintet". The event will take place on Saturday evening March 23, at the Amman Marriott hotel.

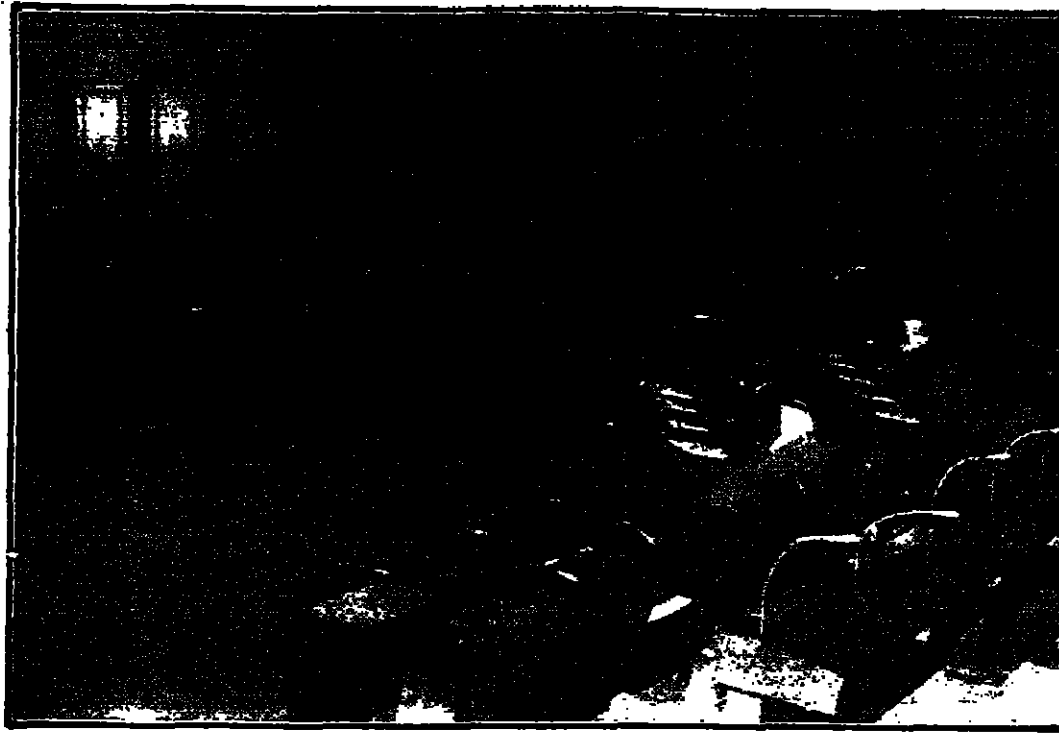
Since the beginning of the seventies, there has been a lot of controversy in order to establish whether jazz had to be "serious" or "commercial". Bands like "Blood Sweat & Tears" used a very special blend of rock and jazz music.

In the opinion of some conservative musicians, the band was guilty of sacrilegious practice. There are many other examples of groups who used to mix jazz with other styles. The truth is there is no such thing as a 'Pure Style'. What matters is not the mix you

make, but the character and the artistic personality you give to this mix.

According to Billboard Magazine, Jay Hoggard belongs to a group of musicians who "solve the supposed clash between the serious and the commercial." In addition to the recognition by Billboard, Jay Hoggard has been named one of the ten best young jazz musicians of the 1980's, by USA Today. Composer and performer, Hoggard integrates Latin, reggae, african, rhythm and blues together with light funk in his music.

The performance comes in a series of musical events which, since the beginning of the year, has been spoiling music lovers in Amman with top quality concerts with many different musical styles. One remembers the exceptional McKenzie-Ware Duo, presented a few weeks ago by the American Centre. Jay Hoggard's performance in Amman is also expected to leave a durable imprint.



The Upper House of Parliament Tuesday holds an extraordinary session after its recess and discusses temporary laws on Jordan's universities, passports and Islamic affairs (Petra photo)

Kidnapped baby reunited with parents

IRBID (J.T.) — Police in Irbid District have captured a woman who had kidnapped a four-month old baby boy from his parents' home at Husun refugee camp. A report in the Arabic daily Al-Dustour said that a woman relative of the kidnapped child had abducted the baby, Walid, as his mother was busy with the housework and the father was outside the house.

The kidnapper identified as H.M.A. had entered the house and found the child and his four-year old sister. She then took away the child and threatened the girl not to utter a word, according to the paper. The report said that the mother, father and neighbours all looked for the missing child in vain although one of the neighbours had said that she had seen a woman leaving the house carrying a child.

Some other people in the neighbourhood also told the parents that they had seen a woman carrying the child, leaving the camp in a taxi cab, and the police were alerted following the incident.

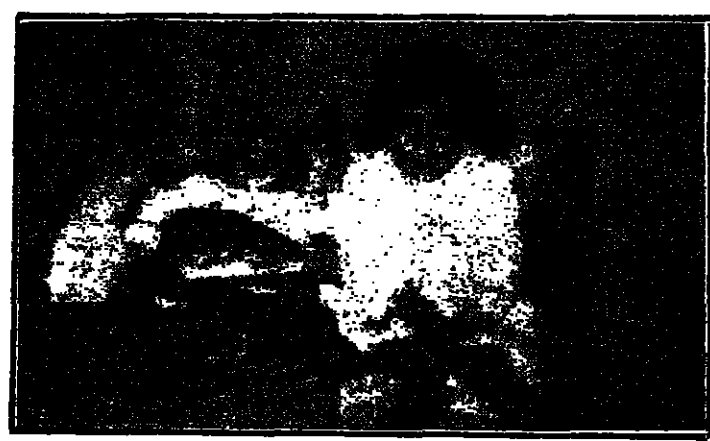
Later the police circulated the news of the abduction to all areas

and police stations in a bid to find the missing child. The ordeal of the parents lasted eight days ending on March 18 when they were called to the police station in Irbid, north of the camp, to identify a child brought to the station by a woman who claimed it was hers.

Upon inspecting the child, the parents said that it was their child and claimed it. The other woman which the report said proved to be barren according to a doctor's

medical report, had after abducting the baby, registered it with the Civil Registration Department under her name and her husband's, naming him "Jibril".

The woman used to visit the parents of the abducted child on her way to see a doctor giving her fertility treatments and so was able to come to the house frequently. She kidnapped the child because she was desperate for children, the report said.



The kidnapped baby boy Walid with his four-year-old sister

Alone in a town of rhinoceroses

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Interpreting the French novelist Eugene Ionesco's play "Rhinoceros", French actor Eric Eychemme presented a rich and marvellous monodrama performance before an audience at the French Cultural Centre Theatre Monday.

For a continuous one and half hours, Eric Eychemme created and impersonated nine images representing different characters of the play. During the one-man performance, Eychemme expressed the modern drama and philosophy that Ionesco pinpointed in his play; the alienation of man from the physical and social universe he inhabits.

Ionesco tried through his play to demonstrate the rhinoceros as the danger threatening the society in which his characters are living. Peacefully seated outside a cafe in a small town in France, Berenger, the hero, and his friend Jean see a rhinoceros passing by. The real problem begins when the rhinoceros starts "multiplying", causing differences and conflicts between the people.

Later on Berenger starts noticing that everybody in the town is being transformed into rhinoceroses, even Daisy the typist and the woman he loves change. Comic, within a tragic frame-

work of loss and alienation, the hero Berenger tries hard to fight the continuous change of mankind into rhinoceroses, but fails.

The last human

At the end Berenger is the only person in the town remaining in human form and he considers himself very ugly with a human face and then tries to become like the others, but now cannot. Questioning whether everybody in the town is right or whether they have done what is good for them, Eychemme concludes his innovative performance leaving his questions without an answer.

Through his play Ionesco tried to prove that although man is subject to undirected changes, he may still order his life by devotion to humanistic values. Since Ionesco is one of the French novelists that started the "Theatre of Absurd" in France, he in his work also demonstrated that the life of a man was reduced to a grotesque situation, that man was incapable of heroism and actions and thought were equally meaningless.

"Rhinoceros represented both the social and ideological development of society," the French actor Eric Eychemme told the Jordan Times. "When Ionesco wrote his play he might have viewed the Nazi movement at that time and the challenges that people faced

whether to accept this ideology or not," he added.

Mr. Eychemme explained that Berenger did not change into a rhinoceros because of his special personality and because of the theory of alienation that Ionesco believed in.

Eychemme's roles

Eric Eychemme started his acting life in 1962 in the experimental theatre, in 1972 he started writing and directing his own plays and formed his own group. After that Eychemme started his own acting style, one-man performance, which he has continued until the present time.

Of his many solo plays Eychemme played, "Les Caraciers", the characters for Bruyere, "Sade, Les Trente Annes de Prison" and "Une Saison en Enfer de Rimbaud".

Eric Eychemme presented a fabulous and innovative performance using only one chair on the stage. The lonely actor, as he calls himself, needs to work hard and to prepare himself in order to be able to change quickly from one character to another. "I have noticed, while watching similar plays, that whenever the actor is playing one character and he moves to another one the first character still exists and their presence is felt by the audience," Eric Eychemme said.

Senate holds first extraordinary session

Upper House endorses universities, passport laws

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament Tuesday endorsed laws pertaining to the universities of Jordan, passports, the Jordan Medical Association and Awqaf and Islamic affairs after slight amendments.

The Senate also referred laws of the Jordan Youth Organisation to the educational committee after a debate sparked by Dhoghan Hindawi who called for forming a joint legal and educational committee to tackle the issue. However, Senate members voted in favour of referring the law to the educational committee.

During its first session following a recess the following temporary laws: Temporary law number 20 for the year 1983 which is an amended law for passports; Temporary law number 5 for the year 1984 which is an amended law to the Jordan Medical Association law; Temporary law 36 for the year 1982, an amended law for Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

The Senate, under the cha-

irmanship of speaker of the Upper House Ahmad Al Lawzi, endorsed 11 laws for the three universities of Jordan after slight amendments. The laws are: the amended law of the University of Jordan number 34, 1981; amended law of the University of Jordan number 33, 1975 which was endorsed after inducing marginal amendments; the amended law of the University of Jordan number 49, 1976.

The Senate also endorsed the Yarmouk and Mu'ta universities' laws after amending several articles. Also in the session, which was the first following a Royal Decree calling for extraordinary meetings of parliament as of March 2, the Senate referred the following laws to the financial

committee: Ratification law of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station project agreement, law number 18 for the year 1983; ratification law of Amman third water and sewerage project agreement which is between the World Bank's International Development Association and the Water Authority of Jordan; ratification law to an amended agreement for Amman water and sewerage project with the Saudi Fund for Development; a temporary law on the building land tax; and an amended law to the Postal Savings Fund.

Upper House members also voted in favour of referring the following laws to legal committee: ratification law of the joint agreement between Jordan and Syria to exploit the waters of Yarmouk River; the Civil Aviation Authority temporary law; the postal services temporary law; the Public Transport Corporation temporary law number 21; and the Civil Status law.

The Lower House of Parliament legal committee is due to meet Wednesday to discuss several laws referred to it by the Senate.

Development Corporation to distribute JD 300,000 in dividends to investors

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Development Corporation (ADC) announced Tuesday that it will distribute JD 300,000 in dividends this year to shareholders who invested in its various projects.

Dividends will be distributed to Amman Municipality, the Housing Bank and the Jordan Pension Fund, but the rest of the profits will be added to the corporation's capital, ADC Director General Sami Al Rashid said in the announcement.

He said that most of the investments were made in building car park complexes in Amman, a project that has practically contributed to reducing traffic congestion in Amman and which also promoted trade activity by finding proper parking for cars.

One of these complexes, built at a cost of JD 2,644,300 is located at Shabboush in downtown Amman. The building is 15 floors high with a total area of 22,750 square metres and can accommodate 374 cars. Mr. Rashid pointed out, he said that the complex contains a shopping centre and offices with all conveniences and public utilities.

Mr. Rashid said that the second

complex was built in Prince Mohammad Street at a cost of JD 2,784,000. It consists of 10 floors for 600 cars in addition to a supermarket, offices and restaurants as well as a car wash and garage service.

Mr. Rashid said that ADC is currently building the King Abdullah Complex and gardens at Wadi Sagra district. This will be an integrated complex with cultural, sports and shopping centres and a children garden and car park.

Also, the ADC is building a handicraft centre at Wadi Umm Al Rimam with the ultimate goal of moving all workshops now occupying sites within Amman to the Umm Al Rimam centre, Mr. Rashid said.

The Wadi Umm Al Rimam project is located south east of Amman along Al Yarmouk street and is connected by Al Nasha bridge to the north east of Amman and a highway to Wihdat, south east of the capital.

A project similar to that of Umm Al Rimam is being carried out at Tihin on the Madaba road, south of here, on a 3,000 dunum area.

According to Mr. Rashid, the ADC will build a multipurpose complex at Jabal Hussein and this will comprise a public park, shopping centre, in addition to a car park. Mr. Rashid also spoke about similar projects to be carried out at Irjan and Mahatta.

Egyptian delegation reviews cooperation in building sector

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Public Works Under Secretary Mu'taz Bilbeisi Tuesday received a visiting Egyptian delegation and briefed them on the role of the ministry, its plans and activities.

The Egyptian delegation includes Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Under

Secretary Midhat Abdul Aziz, Minister Plenipotentiary for Commercial Affairs at the Egyptian embassy in Amman Mohammad Abdul Hameed Sa'ad, Internal Tourism Director Ibrahim Ali Abu Baker and Ministry of Tourism Public Relations Director Farouq Amin Hamdi.

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MX, Star Wars, Nicara-phobia haunt Reagan

By Lou Cannon

REELECTED presidents face a choice of conserving personal popularity or investing in the causes that mean the most to them. In determining his national-security agenda for a second term, President Reagan has taken the latter course and dispelled any lingering doubts that he might become a stay-at-the-ranch chief executive. For all his firmness of purpose, Mr. Reagan is rarely an initiator of policy within his administration. But, at the onset of his second term, he has shown leadership on foreign-policy issues that was largely lacking during his first four years. It is a display of involvement that contains both promise and peril for his administration.

In meetings with advisers and congressional leaders, the president has said he will go to the mat for three priorities — the MX missile, the Strategic Defence Initiative (commonly called "Star Wars") and military aid for rebels opposing the leftist government of Nicaragua.

The MX missile has had more escapes than the Great Houdini, and it seems about to survive another time. Recently Mr. Reagan told key senators that the MX is essential to a "sound agreement in Geneva" in U.S.-Soviet arms-control negotiations.

The president's theological view that the MX is the path to arms control provokes skepticism among those who question the deterrent value of a missile that has first-strike capability and is to be deployed in relatively small numbers in vulnerable silos. But Mr. Reagan is well aware of congressional reluctance to under-

mine the U.S. negotiating position, and his advisers have maneuvered to bring the request for 21 additional MX missiles to a vote soon after negotiations. They are confident that what one of them calls "the glow of Geneva" will keep the MX alive.

The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), viewed strictly as a budget item rather than the ultimate defensive deterrent that Mr. Reagan envisions, is in even better shape. No, Mr. Reagan is not going to be given the full \$3.7 billion he seeks for SDI. But even if he receives \$3 billion, which is likely he will have doubled the budget for strategic-defence research at a critical time.

Attempting the long-gone

DR. SAMIR Geagea's revolt against President Amin Gemayel's leadership may have indeed been instigated by a sacking order that the Maronite leaders did not like. But to say that the Maronites revolted simply because a strategic roadblock had to be dismantled by Geagea's Falangists is a gross misrepresentation of the facts.

One can judge the situation in Lebanon only from a distance, and without necessarily taking everybody's view into consideration. A reasonable way to look upon the Geagea rebellion against Gemayel's authority, however, is to assume that the Lebanese president is not solely interested in the Falangist Party any more. The president of all Lebanon could not possibly rule with a Falangist whip, not at this time, not at any time before and certainly not in the future.

The question that is being asked now is whether Geagea and his fellow rebels have had any direct help from the Israelis to start their revolt. Given the history of the Falangists under Bashir Gemayel and later, we cannot but assume that the Israelis have in fact had a hand in the whole thing. But the connection is yet to be proven and the new collaboration explained.

But what do the rebels hope to achieve from their mutiny? And will they be able to sustain it, given the new Lebanese odds?

Again, to say that the Falangists can achieve much by their action, other than bringing more fighting and bloodshed, is a dream that cannot be realised. And even if they initially succeeded in establishing their own canton in East Beirut and Mount Lebanon, they will not be able to sustain their achievement for long.

This conclusion leaves us with the possibility that the young Falangists who led the revolt against Gemayel did so simply in pursuit of their history and in an attempt to keep up with their ideological dream for a Lebanon dominated by the Maronites. Or, at best, to exercise more pressure on the Lebanese government to be more attentive of their demands. In any case, their cause seems to be doomed and the future holds little hope for them.

The lesson that these men have not yet learned is deeply ingrained in Lebanon's recent history. They would be better off to throw on it a second look.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Common Arab responsibility

THE IRAQIS have no doubt achieved a great victory over their Iranian enemy by expelling them from Arab territory which they tried to occupy and to bring destruction to. The Iraqis have stemmed Iranian expansionist designs in Iraq and in the Arab Nation, and frustrated Tehran's hopes of occupying parts of Iraqi territory.

The Iraqi people have reason to celebrate their victory and the Arab Nation has cause to rejoice at the news of the Iraqi armed forces' successes in the battlefield.

King Hussein and President Mubarak of Egypt, who visited Baghdad Monday to congratulate the Iraqi president and people on this success and above all to show solidarity with the Iraqi people in the face of the Iranian aggression. We have always called for solidarity among Arabs because it will bolster their stand and strengthen their will in the face of danger and aggression. Perhaps the visit of King Hussein and President Mubarak to Baghdad represents the start of such solidarity.

Solidarity among the three countries is an example that should be copied by other Arab states. Arab leaders should meet together when they face a common threat since the defence of the Arab Nation is the responsibility of all.

Al Dustour: Teaching the aggressor a lesson

A VISIT to Baghdad by King Hussein and President Mubarak Monday reflects the desire of both Jordan and Egypt to show solidarity with the Iraqi people in their struggle to repulse the Iranian aggression and thwart Tehran's expansionist designs in Arab land.

The visit, which came amidst a rejoicing by the Iraqi people for their victory over the enemies emphasises to the outside world the extent of strong relations binding Arab people everywhere. This mini summit in Baghdad underlines the fact that Arab leaders, governments and people can come together and stand in firm ranks confronting the aggressors and invaders.

Today we congratulate Iraq and the Iraqi people for their victory over the Iranian enemy and for success in safeguarding the national soil. At the same time we hope that the Iranian regime will realise the blunder it has committed by trying to occupy another country's lands by force. We hope that the Iraqis will learn a lesson and realise that armed conflict can only bring more tragedies to the Iranian people and more destruction and bloodshed to Arabs and Muslims alike.

Calls on Iran over the past four years to make peace with its neighbours have failed to achieve any result, but the humiliating defeat of the Iranian forces at the front over the past few days could open the way for a change.

Sawt Al Shaab: Frustrating Iranian expansion

IRAQ HAS over the past few days frustrated Iranian expansionist aims by dealing a heavy blow to the Iranian armed forces, which tried to cross into Iraqi territory. The Iraqi victory against Iran and the steadfastness of the Iraqi people represent a shield for the Arab Nation against the evil desires of the nation's enemies.

The leaders of Jordan and Egypt visited the Iraqi capital in a show of solidarity with the Iraqi government and people, and the visit marked a beginning of solidarity among all Arab states in the face of danger. This solidarity should see Arabian Gulf states and others in Africa and Asia coming together not only for supporting Iraq to end the conflict in the Gulf but also to lay down the basis for freedom of the Palestinian people now under occupation and the liberation of South Lebanon.

The Iranian offensive is not plotted against Iraq alone but other Arab states as well, and therefore, all Arabs should take meaningful steps to build Arab solidarity. Every Arab ought to bless the steps of King Hussein and President Mubarak who are keen on safeguarding the interests of this nation.



Kremlin change, U.S. farmers need decisions

By Donald M. Rothberg
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The leadership change in Moscow and the distress of American farmers dropped on President Ronald Reagan's desk within days of each other, dramatic examples of how quickly the euphoria of a landslide reelection can be swept aside by difficult challenges.

Mr. Reagan took office seven weeks ago, able to claim a mandate by pointing to his historic victory over Democratic challenger Walter F. Mondale.

"I don't believe you reelected us in 1984 to reverse course," Mr. Reagan said in his inaugural address. The message was clear: The president would press ahead, confident he had the backing of the people.

But like so many of his predecessors, Mr. Reagan quickly

was confronted by events that promised to shape his second term more decisively than any claimed mandate.

All of them were predictable but not controllable. The death of Soviet leader Konstantin U. Chernenko was expected, if not this month then the next or the one after. His failing health had been obvious for some time.

Now Mr. Reagan is confronted in the Kremlin by Mikhail Gorbachev, 20 years his junior and the representative of a new generation of Soviet leadership, a man who might prove far more imaginative and flexible, and as a result, more challenging to the U.S. president than his predecessors.

Mr. Gorbachev's impact is likely to be felt in the arms negotiations in Geneva and in the capitals of Europe, where the Sov-

iet are certain to press vigorously their campaign to convince U.S. allies that Mr. Reagan's "Star Wars" missile defence plan is dangerously destabilising.

The economic plight of some American farmers was an issue in the 1984 presidential campaign, and the returns showed that despite their problems, rural voters were overwhelmingly in Mr. Reagan's corner.

But last week, Mr. Reagan vetoed a bill Congress has passed to provide guarantees to struggling farmers. As he signed the veto message, Mr. Reagan said the measure was a "massive new bailout that would add billions to the deficit" without really helping farmers.

The new Soviet leadership and the problems of the U.S. farm belt are only two of the more prominent problems threatening to

dim the memory of Mr. Reagan's landslide.

On every continent, the United States is confronted by crises over which it has little control, such as renewed violence in the Middle East and the leftward drift of the Greek government.

And where the United States tried to influence events, whether in New Zealand or Latin America, administration "approaches" still new controversy.

At home, Mr. Reagan is finding his mandate hasn't yet produced the votes in Congress for the defence budget increases and the domestic cuts he wants.

All in all, the recent news from Congress and overseas could be enough to make Mr. Reagan wonder if he wouldn't have a better time back at his California ranch watching someone else try to cope with the problems.

Namibia conscription arouses national sentiment

By Tony Weaver

THE guerrilla war in Namibia is now in its 19th year, and for the first time, church and political leaders are warning the conflict could develop into a fully-fledged civil war. South Africa, which has occupied Namibia since 1966 — its de facto occupation stretches back to 1915 — has legislated universal conscription for all Namibians.

Although a limited call-up has existed since 1980, it is only this year that the call-up is being implemented in a thorough fashion. Until late last year, the war against South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) was largely being fought by South African conscripts, permanent force members, and police paramilitary units.

But in keeping with South African attempts to "Namibianise" the political status and controversy surrounding the territory's future, conscription now applies to all males between the ages of 18 and 55 who live in the territory.

The first serious challenge to the system came late in 1983, in a supreme court hearing which str-

etched into last year, Erick Binga, a 21-year-old card-carrying member of SWAPO, was conscripted for military training at the Walvis Bay infantry training school. But he refused to go, and challenged the South African authorities in court, stating that because South Africa's occupation of Namibia was illegal, the country had no right to conscript him into the army.

He added that his brother had fled the country, and was more than likely a trained SWAPO guerrilla. "I am not prepared to fight against my brothers and sisters in the struggle for liberation," he said.

He lost his case, and is appealing, but his stand focused attention on the issue and slowly mobilisation against conscription is gaining momentum. Even so, the options for resistance are limited. While anti-South African political parties have — in defiance of "the law" — called for mass mobilisation against conscription, options open to ordinary citizens are limited: either skip the country and join the 100,000-Namibians already in exile, or go into the army for a

two-year compulsory period.

Now, with the economy in tatters, and unemployment spiralling, white bosses in factories and on farms are giving their workers the choice of conscription or the sack. With almost no trade union structure, the workers have little choice but to register for conscription or face starvation.

Among the parties urging total resistance to conscription are SWAPO, the South West Africa National Union, the Independence Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Mbanderu Council and, on a less strident note, the Damara Council. All have warned that the universal conscription legislation contains the seeds of civil war, and have stated their refusal to fight against their own people in a war imposed upon them.

The Mbanderu Council, a militant party and aligned to SWAPO, delivered an outright challenge to South Africa. "Start building extra goals for Mbanderu sons," they warned in a statement, "because no Mbanderu son will go into the South African army to fight against their fellow-Namibians who are waging the liberation struggle."

Yet resistance to call-up has not daunted the South African authorities. Lieut.-Gen. George Meiring, a seconded South African officer, commanding the South West Africa Territory Force (SWATF) warned recently that "even SWAPO office-bearers will have to register or face prosecution."

Most vocal in the wave of protest against conscription have been the Namibian churches. The Council of Churches in Namibia has repeatedly warned that South African policies are pushing the territory closer to full-scale civil war.

In a recent interview, General Meiring said he foresaw no problems in integrating a post-independence SWATF with SWAPO guerrilla fighters, "because a post-independence government will not be Marxist, and therefore they will not accept SWAPO terrorists into the ranks."

He admitted that there had been problems with SWAPO members being called up and infiltrating the SWATF, but denied this was a major problem — The Guardian.

The Mediterranean should be a zone of peace and prosperity

By Claude Cheysson

ON JAN. 7, I assumed responsibility for the European Community's external relations with all our neighbouring countries in the Mediterranean.

This is a dossier to which I attach a particular importance. The community is already part of the Mediterranean economic, political and cultural zone. It will be even more so after the accession of Spain. In terms both of population and of economic potential, more than one quarter of the future community of 12 will then be able to call itself Mediterranean.

It is therefore vital that we maintain the closest possible ties with our partners in the region and join with them in their efforts to promote their economic development and well-being, but also to those between all the countries of the Mediterranean.

We must also show that we have the imagination to devise new forms of cooperation and to develop relations where none exist at present. Contacts between people, and the free exchange of ideas can play a crucial role in this great process which I hope will lead the Mediterranean to become an area

of prosperity and social equality, the essential prerequisite of the peace and cooperation for which we are striving.

None of this will be easy. On the contrary, it will be extremely difficult and complex to resolve the many conflicting interests and concerns. But it should not defeat us from our task of pursuing a vision essential for Europe as a whole and for all those countries, large or small, that are grouped around the Mediterranean, which is the cradle of our common civilisation.

Finally, and turning beyond the Mediterranean, it will be one of my significant tasks to continue and develop the relations between the community and the Arab World as a whole. Over the last decade, some effort has been made to promote a greater degree of understanding between our two regions. But the most important remains to be done. Here, too, the promotion of cooperation and the development that the community should make and the development of prosperity are contributions that the community should make to the bringing of peace to this troubled part of the world — European Community newsletter.

WATER AUTHORITY KUFRINJA WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT CONTRACT No. K3/76/85

1- The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to submit bid for the supply and construction of Kufrijna treatment plant.

Contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan must be prequalified as General Class Water and Sewerage, Building, Road, or Electro-Mechanical Contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan.

Foreign bidders are strongly recommended to associate with such local contractors.

Jordanian General Class Contractors, bidding as prime contractors, must associate with a qualified foreign specialist firm.

The project consists of the following major structures and facilities:

Headworks, administration building, Imhoff tank, biofilters, clarifiers, recycle pumping station, polishing pond, chlorination system, sludge drying beds and irrigation pump station, equipment and system.

2-A prebid conference will be held on Saturday April 20th, 1985 beginning at 9:00 hours at the office of the Water Authority.

3-On April 20th, 1985 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in a sealed envelope in person or by mail the information on the firm or on the firms of the joint venture requested in the instructions to bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.

4-The bids are due not later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time on Saturday May 4th, 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.

5-Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:

Water Authority
Jabel Hussein
Nablus Street
P.O. Box: (2412),
Amman, Jordan

Telephone: 666111
Telex: 22439 WAJ JO

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 100 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 50 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank cheque.

Eng. M.S. Kilani
President
Water Authority

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Chomsky's book on Lebanon draws heavy 'U.S. elite' fire

"The Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel and the Palestinians"
By Noam Chomsky. South End Press: Boston, 1983.

By Nabeel Abraham

MUCH HAS been said and written about Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Much has been forgotten. Gone are the gleeful editorials clamouring about the "liberation" of Lebanon and the "new opportunities" for peace rising from the death and destruction. Gone are Begin's deceitful pretences behind his "Operation Peace for Galilee," along with his unsolicited assurances that Israel did not covet "one square inch" of Lebanese territory. Gone too are Sharon's announced, "twenty-five mile" military objective and his other lies before an increasingly incredulous world. Memories are short, especially in America where history and myth blend easily in the hands of the "custodians of history."

"Gone but not forgotten" would make an apt epithet to Noam Chomsky's latest work, "The Fateful Triangle". In this Olympic-sized volume, the eminent American linguist and internationally-renowned policy critic painstakingly reconstructs the historical record of Israel's brutal invasion of Lebanon and the events issuing from it. His is a *tour de force* of political writing and critical analysis, encyclopaedic in scope and in its attention to detailed documentation. In it, Mr. Chomsky triumphantly demolishes the prevailing "official version" of that period as put forth by Israel's apologists in America.

There is something hauntingly reassuring about having so many unassailable facts in one easily retrievable and highly documented work. All the more so in this specific instance as the author relied heavily on the Hebrew-language press to document his case, making it that much more unassailable in the eyes of his readers. (There are, for example, approximately one thousand footnotes in this nearly 500-page book). He literally fashioned an entire history, an "anti-official history" one could say, out of hundreds of tid-bits drawn from an odd assortment of newspapers, magazines and other ephemera. This is political writing at its best.

It should be said that Mr. Chomsky's aim is not to restore the historical record of that much distorted chapter of Middle Eastern history; however enduring and significant his contribution is destined to be. Rather, his stated purpose is to scrutinise certain aspects of the U.S.-Israeli "special relationship" and its often disastrous impact on its most immediate victims, the Palestinians. His primary concern centres on those aspects of that three-sided relationship, which in Mr. Chomsky's view have been underplayed, more often distorted and misrepresented, and have led to policies that are "both disgraceful and extremely dangerous...." Israel's Lebanon war is only one episode, a crucial one to be sure, in that relationship.

Central to Mr. Chomsky's argument is what he terms the "international consensus" on a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that is traceable to the aftermath of the June 1967 war. In the beginning the consensus was "rejectionist" in that it neglected the national rights of the Palestinians while brazenly recognising those of Israel. By the mid-1970's the international consensus was

modified to include recognition of Palestinian rights, thereby allowing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which had rejected the earlier versions, to join in. At this point the consensus was no longer rejectionist as it recognised the rights of both parties to the conflict, and was generally interpreted to mean a two-state solution. Today, the international consensus comprises the European states, the Soviet Union, most of the Non-Aligned Movement, the principal Arab states, including all of the confrontation states, and, of course, the PLO mainstream.

It goes without saying that this view of developments is closer to the actual historical record than the one prevailing in the U.S. In that version, the U.S. and Israel are said to have consistently sought a peaceful settlement to the conflict, while the Arab states (with the exception of Egypt since 1977) along with the "terroristic" PLO have been opposed; in other words "rejectionist". Mr. Chomsky is able to turn this "official" version of events completely on its head with relative ease by carefully examining the historical record since 1967. Beginning with President Nasser's acceptance of the Roger's peace plan in 1970, the author methodically establishes his case that first the confrontation states, then the mainstream of the PLO came to join the emerging international consensus of the period. One by one, he retraces the various Arab peace offers on record. There are, to cite some of the most well-known, those by Egypt (1970, 1971, 1977), Jordan (1971, 1972), the confrontation states (1976, 1977), the PLO (1974, 1977). In recent years, the list has grown to include King Fahd's 1981 peace plan and the Fez summit resolutions of 1982. Mr. Chomsky's point is clear enough: The historical record, as opposed to the "official" one, leaves no doubt to where the principal Arab states and the mainstream of the PLO stand on the issue, "even if one can argue with their, perhaps intentional, ambiguity at times."

Turning to the U.S. and Israeli record, one finds a certain consistency in their staunch opposition to the international consensus, even to its earlier rejectionist version, notwithstanding propaganda rhetoric to the contrary. Both countries are, in fact, leaders of the rejectionist camp that ironically puts them in league with minority factions in the Arab world. In the case of the U.S., Mr. Chomsky convincingly argues that following the June war an internal policy debate took place between advocates of joining the international consensus (at the time based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338), led by Secretary of State Rogers, and those opposed, led by Henry Kissinger. The latter group carried the day, and ever since the U.S. has in effect followed a policy supporting "Greater Israel"; more recently known as the doctrine of Israel as "strategic asset". Such a policy entails developing Israel into a major regional military power, doing U.S. bidding and defending its interests in the region. By extension, the policy requires an expanded Israeli territoriality and, therefore, U.S. acquiescence in Israel's continued retention of

the occupied territories. Mr. Chomsky hastens to point out that the U.S. internal struggle was not over goals, but tactics: how to best preserve U.S. interests in the Middle East (mainly control over the petroleum resources and the flow of petro-dollars).

The Israeli position, as enunciated by its two ruling parties, has also been unwaveringly opposed to the international consensus in favour of extending Israeli sovereignty over all the occupied territories (Lakud), or retaining all but the most populated areas of the West Bank (Labour). The Labour Party position is based on the old Allon plan, whereby Israel offers West Bankers token political representation and affiliation with Jordan. Under the plan, Israel would retain control over the West Bank while relieving itself of the so-called Arab "demographic problem". Both Israeli ruling parties are adamant in their opposition to any independent Palestinian political expression west of the Jordan River, let alone an independent Palestinian state.

Israel has typically reacted with "panic" to Arab and PLO offers of a political settlement, followed by either cold silence and/or increased settlement activity, such as Labour's announced "thickening of Jerusalem" following President Sadat's February 1971 peace offer. On other occasions, the panic has resulted in acts of aggression, usually directed at civilian targets. (Curiously, King Fahd's August 1981 peace plan triggered Israeli overflights into Saudi airspace, prompting lively speculation about a possible Israeli air strikes against the oil fields.) "In fact," observes Mr. Chomsky,

"it was not only the Saudi Arabian peace plan and other conciliatory gestures of the Arab states that were causing the familiar 'panic' by 1981-82. A still more serious problem was the increasing difficulty in portraying the PLO as merely a gang of terrorists, particularly in light of its observance of the U.S.-arranged cease-fire on the Lebanon-Israel border despite much Israeli provocation. There is good reason to believe that this threat was the prime factor impelling Israel to invade Lebanon...." (pg. 79)

Clearly, Israeli Chief of Staff, General Eitan had this in mind when he proclaimed at the height of the invasion, "the defence of the West Bank begins in West Beirut".

Mr. Chomsky is insistent about one point which is often

overlooked: without the enormous economic, military, and political backing from the U.S., Israel could not maintain its belligerent and expansionist policies. American support also includes, Mr. Chomsky argues, the shameful and hypocritical ideological support for Israel inside America, "with its systematic falsification of the historical record and its practice of defaming the Palestinians and ignoring their torment...." (pg. 393).

The U.S. bears ultimate responsibility for the prolongation of the conflict and the consequences of Israeli rejectionism: the war in Lebanon being the worst manifestation to date. In fact, Mr. Chomsky speculates, U.S.-Israeli rejectionism may have already precluded the possibility of a peaceful settlement, and continued U.S. funding for Israeli settlement in the occupied territories "has created facts that cannot be changed short of a war" (pg. 42). Thus, instead of looking forward to a just settlement, we may have to brace ourselves for the ugly consequences, which Mr. Chomsky speculates include the possible expulsion of a large segment of the West Bank population, and the "conversion of Israel into a society on the South African model with some form of Bantustans, committed to regional disruption...." (pg. 43).

Instead of seizing upon the few remaining possibilities for a political settlement, the U.S. appears ready to keep its Middle East ally in an ever increasing state of dependency. Israel, for its part, will continue to do U.S. bidding, while accepting to live in a state of permanent war. "Sooner or later," warns Mr. Chomsky, "Israel will face military defeat — it came close to that in 1973 — or the need to resort to a nuclear threat, with the consequences that one hesitates to imagine. Short of that, it will drift towards internal social, moral, and political degeneration" (pg. 442).

Israel has clearly set its sights on hegemony, not coexistence with its neighbours, all with American blessings.

Leaving no stone unturned, Mr. Chomsky examines the possibility that the U.S. might abandon its rejectionist line and join the international consensus, pressuring Israel to do likewise. He also poses a more likely scenario in which Israel take unilateral military actions considered to be at variance with U.S. interests and wishes. It is generally assumed, given

Israel's heavy state of dependency on the U.S., that it would have to comply with U.S. dictates. In other words, Israel must do U.S. bidding whether it likes it or not. There is significant evidence, Mr. Chomsky argues, that Israel could opt to bring out its "secret weapon": the threat to become a "crazy" or "wild" state. According to this reasoning, a determined Israel could threaten (as it already has) to pose a direct military challenge to the Soviet Union, thereby triggering a superpower showdown which could ultimately bring about a nuclear war. Israel has already hinted it has the capacity to hit the southern reaches of the Soviet Union with nuclear weapons. Whatever the merits of that threat, there are numerous ways in which Israel could provoke a confrontation with the USSR, bringing the U.S. into the conflict.

The Middle East remains one of the most likely spots for the outbreak of World War III. The region has already witnessed several close encounters between two superpowers, and all indicators point to continued superpower tension and rivalry there in the future. That Israel has the military capability to make good on its threat to become a "crazy state" is evident. Whether or not it will ever feel pressured enough to exercise its "Samson" option, bringing the roof crashing down on everyone's heads, is an open question. If past behaviour is any indication, there is great cause for alarm.

The "Fateful Triangle" has largely been ignored by the mainstream press and academic/intellectual journals in the U.S. in marked contrast to its reception in Europe and Canada, where it was widely reviewed and discussed. This is not altogether surprising as Mr. Chomsky has been under attack by the establishmentarian intellectual community in the U.S. for some time now. Despite his enormous appeal, normally respected university departments have refused to sponsor his campus appearances, which have been known to attract over a thousand people. When not trying to prevent him from speaking, his detractors are busy shamelessly publishing scurrilous and defamatory articles against him in "respected" liberal publications. Strangely, and in almost Orwellian fashion, the man who at one time was hailed as America's leading intellectual by one of the country's prominent literary magazines is now held to be per-

sona non grata by the mainstream academic/intellectual elite; a telling commentary on the state of this elite and the journals they control.

The reasons behind the vehement attacks on Mr. Chomsky may not all be apparent at first sight. It might be supposed that his public criticism of U.S. and Israeli policies towards the Palestinians, (a trend which predates the present work by several books and many articles), would account for the aspersions cast on him. Such a conclusion certainly has merit, all the more so given his Jewish background, which places him in the unenviable position of being a "self-hating Jew" in the eyes of Israel's fanatic American supporters. Normally the greatest amount of vituperation is reserved for those Jews and Israelis courageous enough to question Israel's policies and actions, along with those of its American benefactor, towards the Arabs. But Mr. Chomsky is by no stretch of the imagination a "radical" or "extremist" in the usual sense of those much maligned terms. He has never advocated the destruction of the Jewish state. Zionist slander to the contrary notwithstanding, he was a long-time advocate of a bi-national Arab-Jewish state in Palestine, a position he held well after it was fashionable to do so. Being a realist, he has come to accept the two-state solution embodied in the current international consensus as the most feasible, though perhaps not the best, solution to the present impasse. This stand, among other factors, probably explains the continued strong interest in Mr. Chomsky's works in Europe and elsewhere outside the U.S., where the international consensus holds sway. His unequivocal support for Palestinian rights is certainly not echoed in equivalent support for the PLO, whose policies and actions have been subjected to criticism in some of his previous writings, albeit in proportion to that beleaguered organisation's role in the confrontation with Israel and the U.S. Exactly where Mr. Chomsky's "extremism" ends and that of his fanatical opponents begins is not always clear from the anti-Chomsky hysteria that sometimes passes for "studied criticism" of the scholar.

For Mr. Chomsky, careful scrutiny of U.S. policies and conduct, not to mention those of states in general, is part of an intellectual's obligation "to speak the truth and to expose lies." If people are ultimately responsible for the actions of their respective governments, then intellectuals have even



greater responsibility, reasons Mr. Chomsky. For they "are in a position to expose the lies of governments, to analyse actions according to their causes and motives and often hidden intentions." Intellectuals are a "privileged minority", to whom "Western democracy provides the leisure, the facilities, and the training to seek the truth lying hidden behind the veil of distortion and misrepresentation, ideology, and class interest through which the events of current history are presented to us." Mr. Chomsky outlined his philosophical and moral position on the responsibility of intellectuals nearly two decades ago, and he has faithfully adhered to it ever since. His principled stand has naturally placed him at odds with powerfully entrenched intellectual/academic interests, variously termed "articulate opinion" and the "custodians of history" by him, who have expended considerable energies producing ideological obfuscation and political apologetics on behalf of the state and its ruling elites. During the U.S. war in Indo-China he earned their animosity when he "spoke the truth" and "exposed lies," lies which incidentally where shamelessly manufactured and propagated

by this intelligentsia.

Today, Mr. Chomsky is internationally recognised as one of the leading human rights advocates and foreign policy critics in the world. His intellectual output is staggering, some 24 books and hundreds of articles; nearly half of his books deal with foreign policy, human rights violations, or criticism of state policies. Mr. Chomsky's "crime" in the eyes of Israel's American apologists is that he lent his immense international status as scholar and human rights advocate to the critique of U.S. and Israeli state policies. In effect, Mr. Chomsky slaughtered America's "sacred cow". And, if ever there was a myth that owed its considerable success to ideological manipulations, it is the myth of Israel in America. Noam Chomsky has refused to play along.

Nabeel Abraham is an American Arab of Palestinian parentage and a cultural anthropologist by training. He has taught at a number of universities in the U.S., and his last post was visiting lecturer in anthropology at the University of Michigan. He is now a consultant to the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

U.S. 'looking into possibility' with joint team

(Continued from page 1)
Reagan's Sept. 1, 1982, initiative. He added that U.N. Resolution 242 "is one of the bedrocks of our position — the land-for-peace formula."

Of the president's initiative, Djerejian said, "we think that it is a very viable basis to move the peace process forward. We think it addresses the legitimate concerns and interests of both sides of the equation in a fair and equitable way."

He noted that Mr. Shultz will be meeting later this week in Washington with Jordanian Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri.

"We look forward to those talks. He is coming at a particularly opportune time when we are involved in rather extensive consultations with all the parties involved in the peace process," Djerejian said.

The deputy spokesman declined to specifically characterise the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on a future role in the peace process.

"We obviously think there has to be some movement, and Ambassador Murphy's trip to the area will be to determine exactly what the situation is and what the possibilities are," Djerejian said. He pointed out that the proposals which deal with the issue are addressed to many addressees.

"The United States is involved in the peace process, but in the first instance, it is the Arab side and the Israeli side that have to sit down and negotiate," he said.

Mr. Masri told reporters Monday that King Hussein may visit Washington soon to press demands of Arab leaders for new involvement by the Reagan admin-

istration in the search for a Middle East peace.

Mr. Masri told reporters the visit will depend partly on the outcome of talks he will hold with administration officials this week.

There has been speculation that if and when King Hussein visits, it could be at the head of a joint delegation with Palestinians, although officials cautioned Monday that such speculation is premature.

In Cairo, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali said meanwhile, the United States will launch a new effort toward Middle East peace once the Arabs demonstrate the "political will" for a settlement.

"It depends on us (Arabs)," Dr. Ghali told the Associated Press. "If we just show that there is a political will and that we are ser-

ious in our efforts," I believe that the Americans will listen and will participate."

Dr. Ghali said "sooner or later" the United States will accept the Egyptian-Jordanian calls for a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue as a first step toward peace talks with Israel.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid on Tuesday briefed Saeed Kamal, a Cairo-based PLO official close to Mr. Arafat, on Mr. Mubarak's talks with American leaders.

"I got the impression that the American position came close to understanding the PLO-Jordanian agreement but did not commit itself to its provisions pending Murphy's upcoming tour in the Middle East," Mr. Kamal said.

Mr. Kamal, a member of the

Palestine National Council, praised Mr. Mubarak's peace efforts and said: "I think the time has come for Egyptian-Palestinian coordination at the leadership level."

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday that Israel will be "very disappointed" if the United States agrees to meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Shamir, speaking to reporters at the airport after a 10-day trip to Europe and Canada, said "Israel as made it clear that we oppose talks of this character."

"We have not yet confirmed the United States position, but if the Americans agree to such a meeting (with a joint delegation) Israel will be very disappointed," Mr. Shamir said.

Sidon residents threatened

(Continued from page 1)

In Sidon, Amal leader Mahmoud Faqih said: "We are sure this flare-up is deliberately timed and part of an Israeli plan to push Christians further south to form a buffer strip for the Israelis along the border."

Mediation efforts to reconcile the mutineers and the Falange Party command made no headway and the party's politbureau has given the mediators a one-month deadline to come up with a compromise, the Falangist Al Amal newspaper said Tuesday.

The newspaper said the politbureau also rejected the rebels' basic demand for the election of a Christian parliament to run Christian areas.

Genuine progress. It really demonstrates the difference.

The new Mercedes mid-series saloons 200 - 300 E.

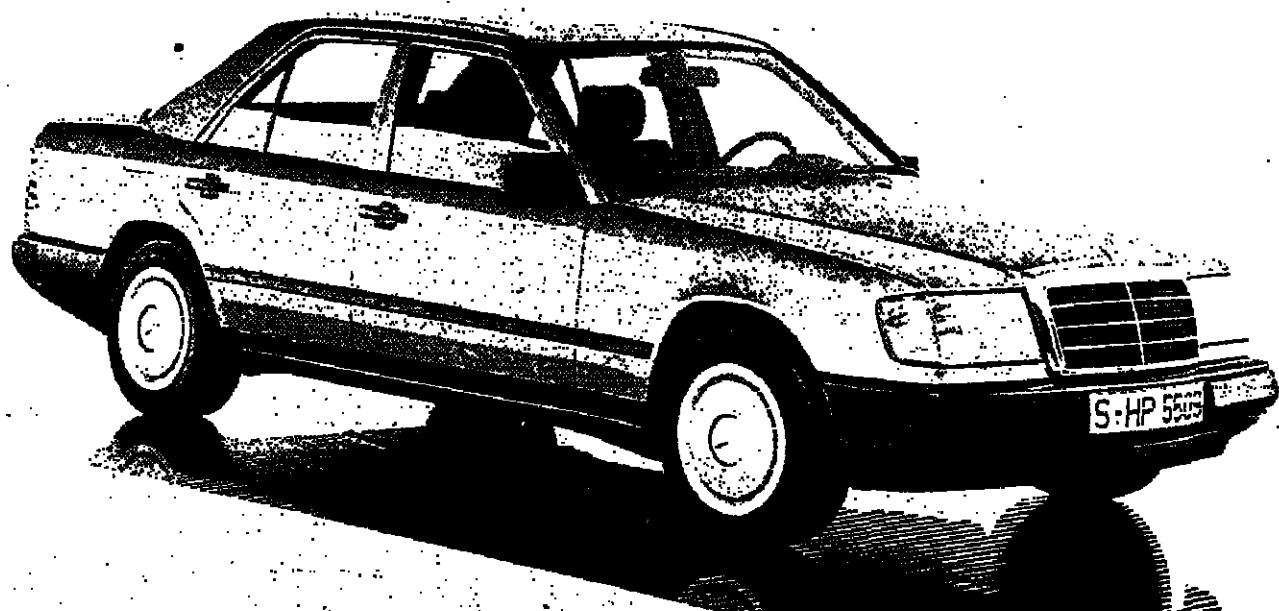
At Amra Hotel - Amman

March 21st to March 23rd 1985 - From 10:00 - 13:00 & 15:00 - 21:00

The new generation of 200 - 300 E models from Mercedes-Benz will be on show.

You are invited to come and view these completely new mid-series Mercedes-Benz's. Cars which meet all the traditional Mercedes requirements, but also possess new qualities aimed at increasing enjoyment of everyday motoring.

Superior driving quality and performance with dramatically reduced fuel consumption, a more relaxing atmosphere with increased safety, value, reliability and their elegant but practical shape. A test drive would allow you to discover what genuine progress really means.



Mercedes-Benz
Engineered like no other car in the world.

T. GARGOUR & FILS COMPANY

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.1370/80	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3770/80	Canadian dollars
	3.2900/30	West German marks
	3.7170/200	Dutch guilders
	2.7953/85	Swiss francs
	66.05/15	Belgian francs
	10.0600/0700	French francs
	2080.05/0	Italian lire
	258.60/75	Japanese yen
	9.3550/3750	Swedish crowns
	9.3975/4175	Norwegian crowns
	11.7525/7725	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	308.75/309.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Stock prices closed mixed with trading thin ahead of the U.K. budget due Tuesday, dealers said. At 1500 GMT the F.T. 30 index was down 0.9 at 994.5 and the FTSE 100 index at 1530 GMT was off 0.4 at 1,299.9.

The strength of sterling failed to attract buying interest while export-conscious companies tended lower, with ICI off 20p at 777 and Jaguar finishing 15p down at 342. The easier dollar and steep rise in bullion price saw gold shares move sharply higher, with Randfontein up \$6 at 97½.

Government bonds stretched early rises to ½ point in long dates reflecting firmer sterling. North Americans eased. Among companies reporting figures Tuesday, Barratt Developments rose 12p to 78p on hopes that its private housing decline has been arrested.

Allied Irish was unchanged at 113 after Monday's sharp fall, while other banks were mixed. In firm insurance, Royal was 12p higher at 608. Oils were mixed with Shell down 17p at 738 but B.P. rose 3p to 536.

Stores were mostly firmer with Woolworth up 12p at 687. Hawker Siddeley rose 16p to 417.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WED., MARCH 20, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until the sun goes down, this is a day when there can be a considerable number of upsets with much confusion about just how to reduce ideas to a workable reality.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are flustered by private worries, so remain calm, otherwise you can make serious errors which prove to be expensive.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A pal who has serious worries may have little time to listen to your own, so be patient and more self-reliant.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Try not to let those who have power over you and be sure to handle your work carefully and get right results.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't jump into that new interest you know little about until you have studied every phase thoroughly.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You had better study your obligations well before you try to solve them if you want to get good results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Not a good day to come to an agreement with a partner, so bide your time. Study his or her side of the situation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make only wise improvements at home instead of radical ones. Study monetary statements for accuracy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be sure to stick to amusements that are not too costly otherwise you could get into trouble. Get special work completed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Trying to make radical changes at home could bring you trouble there at this time. The evening is romantic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You find that communicating with others is fraught with delays and problems, but you handle them easily.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Not a good day to delve into property or monetary matters since your thinking is not at its best now.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Although you feel discontented, persevere in what you are doing and get good results just the same.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have a knack for getting into situations quite different from the norm, so early teach self-reliance in order to rise above them. Give as fine an education as you can and upon maturity, your progeny does well in real estate.

U.S. media giants merging

NEW YORK (R) — Capital Cities Communications said Monday it was buying American Broadcasting Companies for \$3.5 billion in what Wall Street had previously thought was a nearly impossible deal — the takeover of a major television network.

The announcement that Capital Cities, a media giant in its own right with television and radio stations, newspapers and magazines, would take over American Broadcasting Companies (ABC) came after almost three months of discussions and sent the network's stock soaring by over \$31 a share to over \$105.

The announcement came only a week after a major shakeup of ABC's top management to deal with the decline this season in its number of viewers to third and last place, behind CBS and NBC.

ABC Chairman Leonard Goldenson told reporters his company did not base its decision to merge on speculation that ABC could be the target of a corporate raider or subject of a hostile takeover.

Mr. Goldenson said technological advances and the need to keep abreast of changes in the field of broadcasting and publishing made for a logical merger.

Commenting on the network's recent ratings slump, Mr. Goldenson said this too was not a reason the company looked to an outsider.

Analysts said the merger, if approved by both regulators and shareholders, would expose other undervalued broadcasting companies to possible mergers and takeovers.

The two companies Monday said ABC and Capital Cities, which despite not being a national network has media assets as large as those of ABC, would be merged into a new company, Capital Cities-ABC Inc.

ABC shareholders would receive \$118 a share and about \$3 in a fractional warrant to buy stock in Capital Cities.

CBS, NBC and ABC have long been considered complicated takeover or merger targets by Wall Street because of the heavy government regulation governing their operations.

Wall Street analysts said a recent comment by an official of the Federal Communications Commission that a network acquisition would not have to be difficult or take a long time turned investor attention to broadcast stocks.

CBS has been surrounded by takeover speculation in recent weeks, including one by a rivaling group unhappy with its news reporting.

"It's now likely something is to emerge with CBS. This deal breaks the ice," said Mr. Edward Atorino, an analyst with the brokerage house of Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co.

In a statement released jointly by ABC and Capital Cities Monday, the companies said their boards of directors had approved the merger plan.

ABC reported revenues in 1984 of \$3.7 billion and profits of \$195 million.

Besides the network, ABC owns television stations in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and San Francisco, as well as 12 radio stations in major metropolitan markets.

It also owns and operates a publishing business and a film-making company.

Capital Cities, which reported 1984 profits of \$135.2 million on revenues of \$939.7 million, owns seven television stations, 12 radio stations, eight daily newspapers, nine weeklies and several cable television systems.

Arab Banking Corporation takes 75% stake in Hong Kong bank

BAHRAIN (R) — The Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), which last year took over a big Spanish bank, took control Tuesday of a bank in Hong Kong.

ABC president and chief executive Mr. Abdullahi said Reuters it took 75 per cent stake in Sun Hong Kai Bank Limited (SHK Bank), a subsidiary of Sun Hong Kai Company Limited.

He said ABC, jointly owned by the governments of Kuwait, Libya and Abu Dhabi, would pay 360 million Hong Kong dollars (\$46 million) for its stake.

SHK Bank, with 16 branches in Hong Kong, has assets of 3.4 billion HK dollars (\$436 million) and customer deposits of 2.5 billion HK dollars (\$320 million).

Mr. Saudi said the acquisition was part of ABC's strategy to diversify its assets and liabilities into areas of the world where it did not already have a strong presence.

"It's part of our strategy," he said.

are looking for what we see as complementary businesses," he said.

Last year, ABC took a 70 per cent stake in Spain's Banco Atlantico S.A. and it holds a 95.5 per cent stake in Arab Banking Corporation-Daus and Company of Frankfurt and ABC-Banque International de Monaco.

Mr. Fung King Hey, a rag-to-riches Hong Kong entrepreneur who is chairman of Sun Hong Kai Company Limited, will keep a 25 per cent stake in SHK Bank. He has agreed to convert a loan he has made to the bank of 120 million HK dollars (\$15.4 million) into new shares.

In addition, ABC will give SHK Bank a loan of 372 million HK dollars (\$48 million), which will pay interest of eight per cent a year. The loan will be convertible into shares if ABC wants to boost the SHK Bank's capital in future years, Mr. Saudi said.

Mr. Fung owns 28.8 per cent of the company selling SHK Bank, while Merrill Lynch and Company of the U.S. and France's Compagnie Financiere de Paris et Des Pays-Bas (Paribas) hold 25.5 per cent each.

The two foreign companies increased their stake from 20 per cent in October 1983, when they injected capital to stave off a threatened run on the bank.

Mr. Fung, who came to Hong Kong penniless refugee after the communist takeover in China in 1949, built a huge financial empire in the colony's boom years of the 1960s and 1970s.

His group faced increasing problems, however, as the Hong Kong property boom began to falter, and earlier this month also sold its stake in a local television station for 480 million HK dollars (\$61.5 million).

UNCTAD seeks U.S., USSR support

GENEVA (R) — A senior U.N. official Tuesday called on the United States and the Soviet Union to ratify an agreement to set up a \$750 million fund to finance international commodity agreements and reduce price volatility.

Mr. Alister McIntyre, acting head of the secretariat of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said reshaping the troubled world commodity sector was a major task facing the main United Nations body concerned with Third World development.

He spoke at a news conference shortly before addressing a regular two-week session of the 127-nation UNCTAD board.

It was essential that the United States and the Soviet Union be

persuaded to ratify a 1980 agreement that set up the so-called "Common Fund" to secure the necessary directly contributed capital to make it operative, Mr. McIntyre said.

"The commodity situation is desperately weak, and there is no evidence of a recovery taking place in commodity prices," he said, calling for a decisive effort by the board to get the fund set up.

The UNCTAD board met only a few days after efforts by a U.N. conference to negotiate a new world cocoa price pact foundered.

The Common Fund agreement must be ratified by at least 90 countries — 84 have already done so — contributing two-thirds of directly contributed capital of \$470 million, before the fund can be-

come operative.

The U.S., which would contribute 15 per cent of this total, signed the accord but has not ratified it, although 17 Western industrialized countries have done so. The Soviet Union and its communist partners have also not ratified.

Mr. McIntyre said the Common Fund had acquired new significance in the present troubled situation in the commodity sector.

"Producers, consumers, bankers and traders should have an institutional focal point which can be in touch with them on a continuing basis and can give them insights into strengthening the commodity economy," Mr. McIntyre added.

Riyadh to improve services

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabian Finance and Economy Minister Mohammad Ali Abal Khail was quoted Tuesday as saying the kingdom's policy of reducing public spending was aimed at improving services for its people.

He also told the Jeddah-based newspaper Okaz that Saudi Arabia wanted to regulate its imports in tune with market needs but did not envisage imposing custom duties on them.

Sheikh Abal Khail's remarks came a few days ahead of the Saudi Arabian budget for the next financial year. The budget, expected to call for a squeeze on government expenditure, is due to be announced on Thursday or Friday.

"The reduction in government spending aims at improving services for our people ... we also want to be more selective about imports depending on market needs and conditions," Sheikh Abal Khail said.

In answer to a question on Riyadh's reaction to the imposition of customs tariffs on Saudi petrochemicals in Europe, Sheikh Abal Khail said: "We do not work by retaliation. Talks with the European Community (EC) are going in the right direction."

The EC and Gulf countries held talks on the dispute in Bahrain last month, but apparently achieved little progress.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's state oil company (petromin) does not plan further expansion after two refineries currently under construction come on stream, its governor Sheikh Abdul Hadi Al Taher said Tuesday.

Sheikh Taher told the English-language daily Arab News the 250,000 barrel-per-day (b/d) Petromin-Royal Dutch Shell plant at the industrial port of Jubail would go on stream next month. The 325,000 b/d Rabigh export refinery, 50 per cent managed by Petrofin of Greece, would be operational next year.

"The coming five-year development plan (1985-1990) will probably not include any plans for expansion. But the company will continue to develop its human resources," Sheikh Taher said.

Sheikh Taher said the first phase of a planned pipeline linking Iraq's southern fields and Saudi Arabia's east-west line would be connected west of Abqaiq fields near the Gulf coast and will handle 500,000 b/d. He did not say when it will be connected.

The planned link-up is the first stage of a project eventually involving construction of a pipeline for a Red Sea outlet for Iraqi oil with a capacity of 1.6 million b/d.

Bank shows lower profit

On the other hand, continuing a trend of reduced earnings among Saudi banks, reported a Saudi British Bank Tuesday substantial fall in profits.

The bank, 60 per cent owned by Saudi shareholders and 40 per cent by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, said 1984 profits were 100.4 million Saudi riyals (\$27.8 million), down 25.8 per cent from 1983.

Total assets rose 8.2 per cent to 7.25 billion riyals (\$2 billion) at the end of the year, while loans increased 18.6 per cent to 3.42 billion riyals (\$947 million).

In its statement, published in Saudi newspapers, the bank said the loans figure included provisions made for doubtful debts but did not say how much the provisions were.

Customer deposits rose 14 per cent to 5.38 billion riyals (\$1.49 billion). But deposits from banks in Saudi Arabia fell 39 per cent to 367.2 million riyals (\$101.7 million), while foreign bank deposits fell 64.8 per cent to 69.1 million (\$19.1 million).

The bank proposed a lower dividend of 60 million riyals (\$16.6 million) for 1984 against 67.2 million (\$18.6 million) in 1983.

Canadian computer team due in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A six-member team representing the computer industry in Canada is expected to arrive Friday on a three-day visit aimed at meeting computer users and others interested in the technology and its application in Jordan.

The team, led by Mr. Pierre Lalonde, a senior official of Canada's Department of Regional and Industrial Expansion (formerly the ministry of industry), includes prominent businessmen and experts in the North American country's computer industry.

During the course of their visit, members of the delegation are scheduled to meet with students and teaching staff of the University of Jordan, in addition to actual users of Canadian computer systems in Jordan.

Canada caters to a number of diversified computer requirements including information processing, educational systems, word processors, microcomputers, data communications, business and educational software, Arabic/Latin microcomputer terminals and software.

The University of Waterloo, one of the leading universities in Canada, is a producer of computer software for business, general education and university applications. The delegation will include a representative of the university, in addition to leading manufacturers such as Gandalf, Cognos, AES and TKI.

OPEC ministers review price support efforts

GENEVA (R) — An OPEC committee chaired by Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani began a meeting Tuesday to review efforts to support world oil prices by limiting production.

The five-member ministerial executive council is expected to study the progress of an auditing scheme set up to monitor the output of OPEC's 13 member states.

OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) decided at a conference here in December to establish the system. Auditors from the Amsterdam-based firm Klynveld Kraayenhof have since visited some but not all OPEC states.

"We shall be reviewing January and February statistics," OPEC Acting Secretary General Fadhil Al Chalabi told Reuters.

In addition to Sheikh Yamani, the committee includes the oil ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela.

OPEC's current self-imposed output ceiling is 16 million barrels per day (b/d). The committee will be looking to see if any member has been producing more than its quota.

There are no sanctions at the committee's disposal if countries overproduce but it hopes the embarrassment of being caught "cheating" will be enough to keep members in line.

Latest statistics show OPEC members are keeping close to their quotas. The International Energy Agency's (IEA) latest report suggests that in February

OPEC produced some 300,000 b/d above the 16 million b/d ceiling.

The most recent edition of the authoritative oil industry newsletter Middle East Economic Survey puts February production at 255,000 b/d above the quota after January production fell as low as 14.7 million b/d.

At a news conference in Saudi Arabia Monday, Sheikh Yamani said the group's March production was running at the ceiling level of 16 million b/d.

Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto told reporters that although oil demand usually went down during the second quarter of the year, he hoped destocking by major oil companies during the end of 1984 and start of 1985 would force them onto the market in the spring to rebuild their stocks.

"I expect the restocking in the second quarter will mitigate the weakness of the market," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, industry sources expect the committee to discuss, at least informally, last week's surprise move in London to abolish the state-owned British National Oil Corporation (BNOC).

Although analysts have said oil price stability could be harmed by the demise of BNOC, whose pricing policies were seen as supporting OPEC, Sheikh Yamani said it might not be a negative development if the move discouraged small North Sea producers from extracting oil as fast as they could.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernard Meren

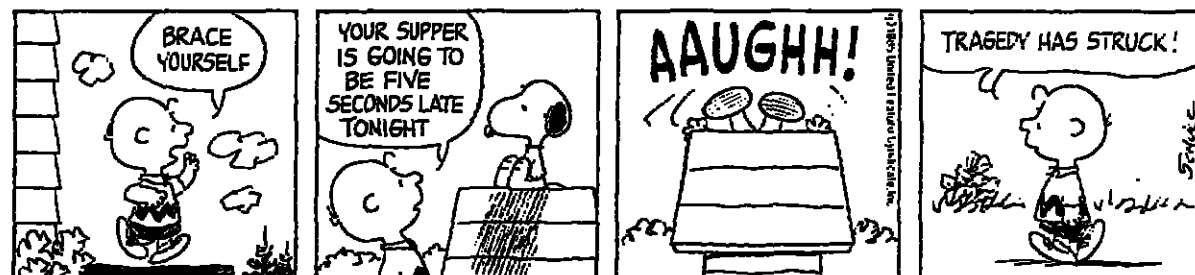
ACROSS

- 1 Ferber
- 5 Bertok
- 9 Prayer wheel
- 13 Nose around
- 14 Elevator man
- 15 Bedouin head
- 16 Piano novelty
- 19 Brainchild
- 20 One — million
- 21 Left-hand page
- 22 Court
- 24 TV performer
- 26 "— goes by"
- 28 Dry cleaning
- 30 Employment
- 33 Sen. Thurmond
- 34 Gardener at times
- 35 Dots or Dennis
- 36 Convention
- 40 Overhead
- 41 Railroad prel.
- 42 Stephen
- 43 Vincent —
- 44 From (cello)
- 46 Removes soda
- 47 Chi-chi
- 48 Two-ounce
- 49 Manager
- 52 Make lace
- 53 Eye part
- 57 Mayor's gift
- 61 Suits river
- 62 Villa d'
- 63 Ood —
- 64 Stepped heavily
- 65 At no time to poets
- 66 Ernie —

DOWN

- 1 Arthurian lady
- 2 Be too fond
- 3 Man's scribble
- 4 Zoo attraction
- 5 Planner of yore
- 6 Lab burner
- 7 Ignited
- 8 Residue
- 9 L.A. five
- 10 Antiquer
- 11 Diamond great
- 12 In addition
- 13 Schuss
- 17 Atr. river
- 18 Holiday times
- 23 Shot and shell
- 24 Blantz
- 25 At this place
- 26 Inquired
- 27 Inscribed stone
- 28 Rendezvous
- 30 Blissful abodes
- 31 Peep show
- 32 Methods: abbr.
- 34 Writer of children's books
- 37 Diplomacy
- 38 Nichol's
- 39 Protagonist
- 40 Derby site
- 41 Graded
- 45 Comic Johnson
- 46 Baseball great
- 47 Stamping machine
- 48 RBI or ERA
- 50 Burn to a crisp
- 51 Flying prefix
- 52 Bag type
- 54 Pill container
- 55 Feminine ending
- 56 Pro vote
- 58 Urge
- 59 Half a fly
- 60 Psychic initials

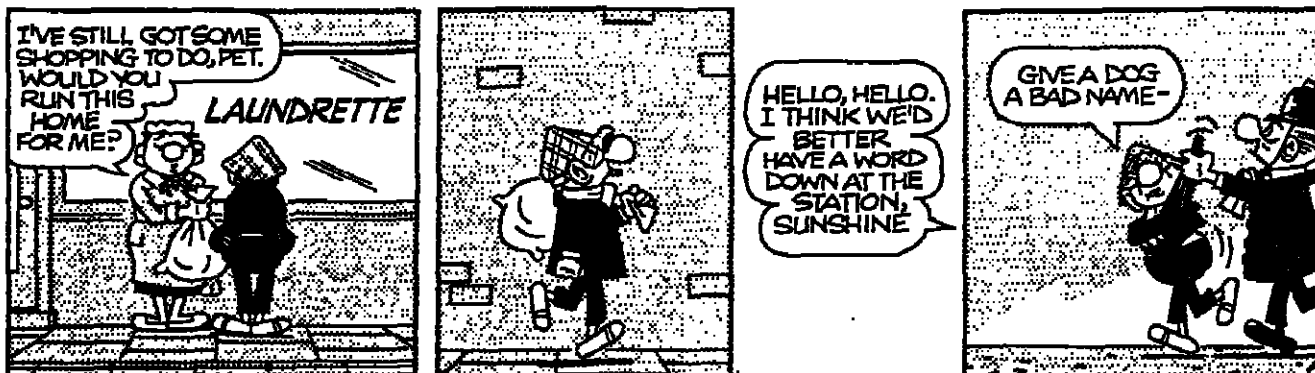
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OCKAL

TADUN

TUSHIA

DOYLOB

HOW YOU SOMETIMES END UP IF YOU GO ALL OUT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUILD ARRAY INJURY PARDON

Answer: What he called those people who acquitted him—"A GRAND JURY"

U.S. trying for MX 'trump card', Soviets say

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party daily Pravda on Tuesday restated Soviet willingness to reach arms accord in Geneva but accused the United States of pursuing an MX missile "trump card" with which to pressure the Soviet Union.

The U.S. Senate was to decide Tuesday whether to approve President Ronald Reagan's plan to add 100 MX missiles to the American nuclear arsenal. A \$1.5-billion allocation has been approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee, and majority leader Robert Dole has predicted endorsement by the full Senate.

"The USSR's principled, consistent policy opens the way for constructive accords at the Soviet-U.S. talks on space and nuclear arms, which have begun in Geneva," Pravda said, after repeating Kremlin claims that it does not seek military superiority over the United States.

"But the USSR is only one of the negotiators. And very much depends on the stand of the other side," Pravda said.

"The international public has not failed to note the fact that, even before representatives of the USSR and the USA took their seats at the negotiating table, the lawmakers that sit in Washington's Capitol began to feel a most strong pressure," wrote commentator Vitaly Korionov.

"The U.S. press reports that the U.S. administration feverishly seeks ... the allocation of new funds for MX missiles," the newspaper said. "Congressmen are being ... told that the allocation of funds will ostensibly give the U.S. delegation in Geneva a trump card for pressure on the Russians."

In Geneva U.S. and Soviet arms

control negotiators met Tuesday for their second substantive session on reducing the threat of nuclear and space war, one week after the talks opened.

The American negotiators arrived at the Soviet mission shortly after 11:00 a.m. (1000 GMT) and said nothing to waiting reporters. Reporters were not allowed to enter the mission.

A U.S. spokesman said the meeting was a "joint plenary session" of 21 delegates on each side. How long it would last was unknown.

The talks will be broken into three areas — long-range nuclear missiles, medium-range rockets and space and defensive weapons systems. The logistics of the separate working group meetings have not been announced, but the U.S. spokesman said last week the three groups would begin functioning "very shortly."

The most recent meeting between the delegations — the first joint plenary session dealing with substantive issues — was held last Thursday at the Geneva headquarters of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, about 2 kilometers from the Soviet mission on Geneva's Avenue de la Paix (Avenue of Peace).

At that meeting, which lasted two hours, the delegation heads made opening statements and a discussion followed, a U.S. spokesman said at the time.

The talks opened two days ear-

lier with a get-acquainted session between Victor Karpov, the chief Soviet negotiator, and the U.S. team of Max Kampelman, the leader, John Tower and Maynard Glitman.

The delegations were expected to alternate their meetings between U.S. and Soviet quarters. The first round was expected to last until late April, when both delegations would return to their capitals for consultations, then return to Geneva. Each delegation comprises about 80 people.

Meanwhile President Reagan, bolstered by victory in a key committee, is applying full pressure to win Senate approval for the production of 21 more multi-warhead MX intercontinental ballistic missiles.

He even wooed one or two wavering senators for what is expected to be a close vote with telephone calls from his plane Monday as he returned from a visit to Canada.

The Senate, controlled by Mr. Reagan's Republican Party, planned a vote on releasing \$1.5 billion for production of the 10-warhead missiles.

Mr. Reagan's prospects of winning moved sharply ahead Monday when the key Senate Armed Services Committee voted 11-6 to release the funds.

But he maintained his pressure on wavering senators, scheduling a lunch with Republican leaders in Congress only hours before the vote.

He also made "one or two lobby-



ISRAELI TERROR: A Lebanese woman stands in front of the ruins of a house in the village of Jebchit, Monday. The house was destroyed by the Israeli army in a reprisal raid against the village on Sunday (AP wirephoto)

Reagan wants summit with Gorbachev

QUEBEC CITY (R) — President Reagan is ready for a summit meeting with new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev but says the United States must deal realistically with "Communist oppression."

"We are ready to work with the Soviet Union for more constructive relations. We all want to hope that last week's change of leadership in Moscow will open up new possibilities," he said.

But he also said: "We must remember that the Soviet record of compliance with past agreements has been poor."

Mr. Reagan was in Quebec for talks with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who gave him a positive assessment of Mr. Gorbachev. Mr. Mulroney met the new Kremlin leader last week in Moscow after the funeral of President Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr. Reagan said Moscow had violated the Yalta Agreement, the

Geneva Chemical Weapons Convention, SALT-2, the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty and the Helsinki Human-Rights Accord.

"The weight of the world is struggling to shift away from the dreary failures of Communist oppression," he said.

U.S. officials denied Mr. Reagan was returning to the harsh rhetoric of his first term during which he called the Soviet Union "an evil empire," but instead was being realistic.

"In order to meet the Soviet Union, you don't have to share their views ... the president believes that if Mr. Gorbachev is ready, they could have a substantive meeting," one official said.

Mr. Reagan has invited Mr. Gorbachev to meet at a mutually convenient time and the official said: "The ball is in their court."

In a joint statement with Mr. Mulroney after their meeting here, Mr. Reagan said: "Dialogue and negotiation between the United States and the Soviet Union at Geneva (where arms control talks have resumed) provide a historic opportunity to set East-West relations on a more secure foundation."

The two men, who have developed a close personal rapport, hailed the summit as an outstanding success. They signed a \$1.2 billion agreement to modernize North America's early warning radar system for tracking a possible attack by Soviet bombers and cruise missiles over the Arctic Circle.

They also appointed envoys to deal with the problem of acid rain, which Canada says originates from pollution in the United States and is threatening Canadian lakes and forests.

Kohl's party bids for wider support

ESSEN, West Germany (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) gathered for a congress in Essen Tuesday aimed at broadening the party's appeal following serious setbacks in regional elections.

Controversy within the CDU's own ranks over the main conference topics appeared to threaten the leadership's hopes of presenting an image of party unity midway through Mr. Kohl's term of office.

The three-day congress, which formally opens Wednesday, is devoted to ways of improving the status of women in society and discussing a proposal by CDU leaders to support working mothers by boosting maternity leave payments.

The party hopes to halt a slide in its support among women and widen its electoral base following defeats in two regional polls last week.

Officials say the congress will play a vital role in paving the way for general elections due in 1987 and should convey an image of unity and dynamism to the West German public.

Leading party members have already made clear they will speak out against the bid to woo working women.

Labour Minister Norbert Blum had said the party should stick to its traditional policy of supporting the role of the German housewife and not try to outdo the opposition as a standard-bearer for emancipation.

The right-wing daily Die Welt, a staunch supporter of Mr. Kohl, also railed against the leadership's proposals Tuesday, saying extra expenditure on maternity payments would undermine the government's tight fiscal policies and could threaten recovery.

Prince Talal receives award

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia received an international award Monday for his efforts as head of an Arab state consortium that helps finance U.N. relief projects. Prince Talal, president of the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisation (AGFUND), was named 1984 "Personality of the Year" Award at a Geneva ceremony. AGFUND was founded in 1970 as a subsidiary of the independent Paris-based Organisation for United Nations Development Organisation (AGFUND) Spokesman Ezzeldin Shawkat told the Associated Press. Other recipients since the award's founding in 1970 have included Indian President Indira Gandhi, King Juan Carlos of Spain and former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Shawkat said.

Police seize cocaine sewn into bras

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Police have seized 12 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of about 100 million francs (\$15 million) sewn into the linings of bras and corsets in a left-luggage locker at a Brussels station. Police said the drugs were found when officials opened the locker after two days.

Diplomats in India smuggle drugs, gold

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 12 members of the foreign diplomatic community in India have been involved in smuggling heroin, gold and video machines over the last two years, the Indian government said Tuesday. Minister of State for Finance Janardhana Poojary told parliament that in the biggest recent case of smuggling by diplomats or their wives, police seized five million rupees (\$415,000) worth of gold bars from a Somali diplomat earlier this year. Three people attached to the French embassy and two linked with the Iranian embassy were involved in other cases during 1983 and 1984, Mr. Poojary said.

Robbers strike while driver of armed van relieves himself

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Armed men have robbed a security van of half-a-million dollars when the driver stopped to relieve himself, the semi-official Telam News Agency said. It said the robbers raided the van at a rural crossroads about 370 kilometres north of Buenos Aires, holding up the driver and three colleagues before escaping.

Man gets new nose from pig's ear

PEKING (R) — Doctors used cartilage from a pig's ear to rebuild the nose of a Chinese farmer bitten off by a rat 25 years ago, the China Daily said Tuesday. The report said that now, 10 months after the operation at a military hospital in Jinan, eastern China, the man was able to breathe normally and had a sense of smell.

Jim Brown to be charged with rape

LOS ANGELES (R) — Jim Brown, the former American football star turned actor whose films include the Dirty Dozen and Ice Station Zebra, is to be charged with rape, sexual battery and assault, a court official has said. Brown, 49, and a woman friend, Carol Moses, 22, were arrested on Feb. 20 after a 33-year-old woman filed a complaint against them. Deputy District Attorney (Prosecutor) Sandra Butitta said no charges would be brought against Moses.

Iranians say uniform too revealing

TSUKUBA, Japan (R) — Iranian officials have told Japanese hostesses at Iran's pavilion at the Expo-85 Science Exhibition here their mini-dress uniforms are too revealing, exhibition organisers said Tuesday. The uniform, a dress with silver boots and golden hat, broke Islamic rules against women exposing their legs and hair, they said.

Scientist says nuclear test in Australia was unsafe

LONDON (Agencies) — The man who designed and tested Britain's first nuclear bombs in Australia in the 1950s has said that at least one of the devices was exploded in unsafe conditions.

Lord Penney, former head of British Atomic Weapons Research, told the final day here of a seven-week official Australian inquiry that with hindsight the bomb at Emu, Southern Australia, in 1953 should not have been fired.

He told the lawyer helping the commission that the decision was based on wrong meteorological information.

The inquiry is looking into allegations that soldiers and aborigines in the remote test areas were exposed to dangerous levels of radioactivity.

The Royal Australian Commission also heard how Lord Penney had written to the British government in 1955 saying officials should wait a few days before providing the Australians with samples, so that some of the short-lived isotopes would decay.

Answering questions from the lawyer helping the commission, Lord Penney said the decision was based on wrong meteorological information.

Asked to explain his reluctance to hand over samples to the Australians, Lord Penney said he thought he may have been concerned that the government there would gain clues about Britain's A-bomb design.

Twelve nuclear devices were

tested in Australia.

At Monday's hearing, a 30-year-old paper produced by a Harwell Atomic Research Centre scientist revealed that Scotland was also considered as a testing site but ruled out because there was too much rainfall.

The British Defence Ministry said Monday night that scientists once considered carrying out tests in Scotland which would have released into the atmosphere radioactive materials used in atomic bombs.

But it denied a report that "an atomic bomb-type explosion" was ever contemplated in the Scottish highlands.

The denial followed angry reaction from a Scottish legislator.

The British domestic news agency Press Association had reported that the paper disclosed that scientists had seriously considered exploding an atomic bomb near Wick on Scotland's north east coast but decided against it because it rained too much there.

But a ministry press officer said later: "There was a proposal in the 1950s to carry out experiments in the Wick area involving the release of short-life radio-active material. This was polonium ... polonium releases alpha particles which generate neutrons to start a nuclear reaction going. This was not an atomic bomb-type explosion."

"The proposal was not proceeded with as it was decided that Wick was not a suitable site."

Canada, U.S. may develop joint defence

QUEBEC (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Monday the United States and Canada may develop a joint defence against Soviet cruise missiles that could entail placing nuclear missiles in Canada, as well as in the United States or at sea.

In an interview on Canadian Television (CTV) during President Ronald Reagan's visit to Quebec, the U.S. defence chief was asked if he expected the United States to request a more active Canadian defence against cruise missiles.

"Well, I think we both would want to have the most effective defence possible," Mr. Weinberger said, "and I think Canada has defences of her own air space now."

But the two — in this kind of world, the geography being what it is — almost would have to work together, and we have. And as we develop better means of defence against cruise missiles, both air launched, and ground launched, submarine launched, obviously we would want to apply that."

Asked if such a defence might involve putting launchers in Canada, Mr. Weinberger said they would be put in the most effective places.

"Some might be here (in Canada), some might be in the United States, some might be at sea," Mr. Weinberger said. "It just depends on where is the most effective technical place for them to be put."

2 more blacks die in South African violence

PORT ELIZABETH (R) — Two blacks were killed Tuesday when police fired shot during renewed unrest around Port Elizabeth, police said.

This brought the death toll in five days of violence in black townships around South Africa to nine.

Most of the unrest has taken place in townships near Port Elizabeth, where blacks staged a three-day strike in protest at rising prices.

A spokesman said police opened fire when a crowd of about 500 began stoning them in Kwa-Zulu township. Two men were killed and seven arrested, he said.

Well over 200 people have died in unrest during the past year in protests over the plight of blacks in the white-ruled republic.

The central business sector of Port Elizabeth was paralysed and virtually deserted Monday on the final day of the three-day strike, called by a black civic organisation to highlight economic hardships in black communities.

Police said they repeatedly fired birdshot and arrested scores of demonstrators after several days of arson and rampaging in the Cape province, where residents have been angered by an increase in bus fares.

Blacks have been particularly affected by an economic recession, brought on largely by falling gold prices, that was reflected in an inflation-fighting budget

presented to parliament Monday.

Higher bus fares have hit blacks hard as labourers, living in townships located outside cities reserved for the country's affluent whites, spend a large portion of their relatively low wages on transport to work places.

One victim of the weekend unrest was a 23-month-old boy who died of suffocation after a house was sealed by arsonists.

A youth, one of the four people who died Monday, was hit by police fire after a group of protesters attacked police vehicles with petrol bombs.

South African Foreign Affairs Minister Roelof 'Pik' Botha and black Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu have clashed over racial policy in their first public debate.

Mr. Botha, representing the minority white-ruled South African government, and Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize-winning opponent of apartheid, appeared Monday on a U.S. television programme broadcast from Johannesburg.

Mr. Botha, interviewed from Cape Town, said his government was committed to gradual change in a controlled fashion towards political reforms for the majority black population.

Tutu, in Johannesburg, said the government had stopped disastrously short in its recent effort at reforms and called apartheid "so ghastly and vicious that it has to change."

Ershad wants 50 per cent 'yes' vote from Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's military President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said Tuesday he had achieved more in his three years in power than opposition politicians would have done in a century.

In an exclusive interview with Reuters, Gen. Ershad defended his decision to put most opposition political leaders under house arrest before Thursday's national referendum as a way of avoiding violence at the polls.

"This is my referendum, not theirs," he said.

He predicted a 60 per cent voter turnout in the referendum on his policies and said he would regard a 50 per cent "yes" vote as a mandate to continue governing the country.

The political leaders under house arrest include the two main opposition figures, Begum Khaleida Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wazed. They have called for a general strike on Thursday to protest against the referendum which they regard as a ploy to legalise Gen. Ershad's martial law government.

"In the three years I have been in power we have achieved more than the politicians achieved in the 11 years since our 1971 independence," Gen. Ershad said.

"What we have done would have

taken the politicians 100 years."

"Some of these so-called political parties would not win one single seat in 200 years of elections," added Gen. Ershad, a 55-year-old lieutenant-general who seized power in a coup on March 24, 1982.

He was in a reflective mood as he sat in a safari suit in the residence of the army chief of staff, one of the posts he holds. The room was dominated by a sombre painting of soldiers forcing their way through barbed wire at dawn.

Gen. Ershad said that during a nationwide pre-poll tour, he had found overwhelming support for his referendum question which reads: "Do you support the policies of President Ershad and do you want him to continue to run this administration until a civilian government is formed through elections?"

His years in power have been marked by a cat-and-mouse game between him and traditional politicians about returning the country to democracy and ending martial law.

He has postponed parliamentary elections four times, on each occasion blaming plans by politicians to boycott the polls because they did not think they would be fair.

"We have tried to meet their

every demand but each time they want something more," Gen. Ershad said. "So now we will let the people decide in the referendum and I will bow to their will."

He did not reveal his plans if there was a "no" vote.

Gen. Ershad indicated the referendum marked a turning point in Bangladesh's political development and was a sign of impatience at the failure of traditional political parties to join him in running the nation.

He recalled telephoning political leaders in the past to discuss how to return the nation to democracy.

"They would say put it in writing. But when we asked where to send a letter they did not even have an address. That is the strength of the politicians at this time in Bangladesh."

With two days left before the 50 million electorate votes, there are few signs of tension in the capital Dhaka and travellers report the same from the countryside.

Three small bombs exploded in the capital on Sunday night and the capital is under midnight to 5 a.m. curfew with all schools and universities shut. But during the day life appears normal and troops are most noticeable by their absence.

Government officials say about

100 people have been arrested ahead of the referendum. Opposition politicians say the figure is considerably higher but less than one thousand.

Gen. Ershad spoke proudly of his achievements since taking power at a time when he said Bangladesh was mired in corruption and law and order had broken down under the civilian government.

Latest figures from Bangladesh's Central Bank show the country's foreign reserves stand at \$450 million, double the figure when Gen. Ershad took over.

"Bangladesh is now a viable nation with a future ahead of it. We are no longer a basket case," he said.

The days of just struggling to feed our people are over. We now want to industrialise. We want to do things like win an Olympic gold medal so people know where we are," he said. "Until now we could not afford those thoughts."

In a speech to government employees Tuesday, Gen. Ershad said he remained committed to holding parliamentary elections and his door was always open to politicians to discuss the issue.

"Military rule and a referendum are just temporary measures to ensure peace, order and stability," he said. "I believe elections are



Hossain Mohammad Ershad

the only way to restore a stable democratic government."

Journalists in Bangladesh have urged the military authorities to lift restrictions on the press imposed ahead of Thursday's referendum.

Leaders of the Dhaka Union of Journalists said at a rally Monday the curbs on the freedom of press would deny people a fair judgment at the polls.

"Restrictions of this kind mean that you want only 'yes' votes and do not give scope to the opposite," a union leader said.

Similar protest rallies were held in the southern port city of Chittagong, according to a union announcement.

Police surrounded the Dhaka and Chittagong Press Club area where rallies were held but did not intervene.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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THE TALE OF THE SIX OF SPADES

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 3
♥ J 5 3 2
♦ 9 7 4
♣ 10

WEST EAST
♠ 6 ♠ A 10 9
♥ 10 8 7 6 ♥ K Q 9
♦ Q 6 2 ♦ K 10 8 5 3
♣ K Q 9 5 4 ♣ J 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 5 4 2
♥ A 4
♦ A
♣ A 8 7 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♠
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Two of ♠.

He was on the short side with a pronounced pot belly, and dressed all in black. But there was a twinkle in his eye that belied his sober appearance.

"These brilliant plays are all very well," he said, "but frankly, reading about them bores me after a while. Give me something with a touch of

Handwritten signature: "J. P. in 1984"